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EARLY WHITEWATER

1837—1867

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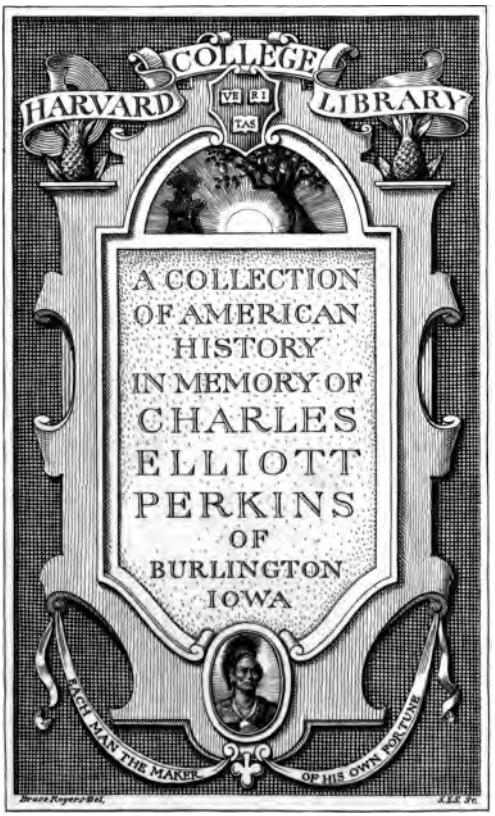
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EACH MAN THE MAKER OF HIS OWN FORTUNE

PROSPER CRAVATH, ESQ.

EARLY ANNALS OF WHITEWATER

1837-1867

WRITTEN BY

PROSPER CRAVATH, ESQ.

1837-1857

Continued by SPENCER S. STEELE, 1857-1867

Edited by ALBERT SALISBURY, 1906

Published by

THE WHITEWATER FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

1906

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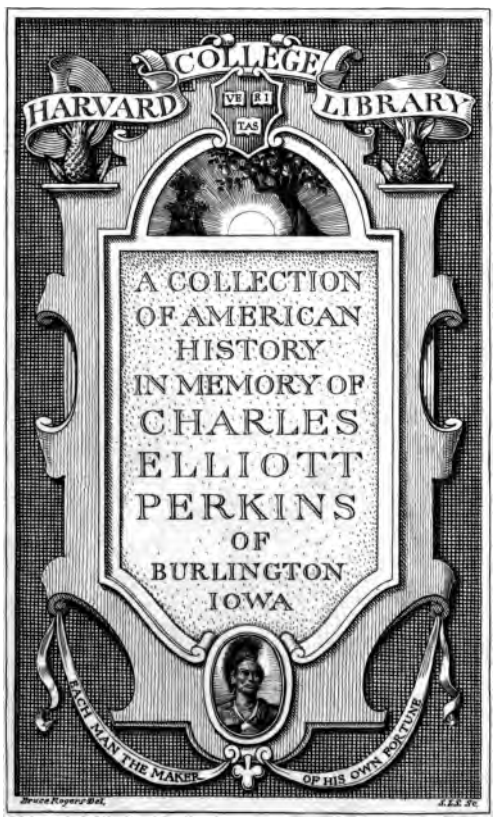
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even then, and more real and hearty ones, I think, than many they have tasted since—and partly by the fact that many articles, purporting to contain veritable accounts of the early history of Whitewater have appeared, both in the Register and other papers, which are incorrect and have left upon the mind of the community a false impression. I have also been led to make these communications that those who have come among us at a later day may know what has been done by those noblemen who first pitched their tents in this then wilderness, and that the minds of some who seem disposed to think those early settlers cared little for the graces and arts of civilization—that they, the founders and builders, took no heed for the superstructure that it should be at once strong and beautiful and pleasant to the sight—may be disabused of their erroneous impressions, and may know them for what they were, a band of energetic, noble, strong-hearted men and women, ever ready to work for public as well as private good.

No one but he who has from the first kept pace with the steady march of progress and improvement, can fully realize what or how much has been done, or how great is the contrast between Whitewater as it was and is—between the Whitewater of eighteen hundred and thirty-six and the Whitewater of to-day.

The Region in 1836—Then, in all the wide circuit of country which now comprises the thickly settled towns of Whitewater, Lima, Richmond, LaGrange, Palmyra, Hebron, and Cold Spring, not a solitary white inhabitant could be found; the red man, the true "Native American," then reigned sole possessor of the land. The forests, swept clear of the rubbish of the year by the annual fires kindled in the red man's path, were as destitute of any undergrowth of shrubs as the most carefully kept park, and presented to the eye of the beholder an unobstructed and extended range of vision, ever opening to his view delights and fresh beauties. No sound of the axe had then invaded these solitudes, no plough had turned the virgin soil, but delicately tinted flowers bloomed where now are seen smiling fields of nodding grain or rustling corn.

Indian Trails.—Then no habitation met the traveler's view, giving promise of rest and welcome; no trace was seen to mark his route, save a little path, seemingly made by the former occupants of the soil. This highway of a nation was but a narrow path, scarce fifteen inches broad and deep-worn by the tread of many feet. It extended in a continuous line between the cities of Milwaukee and Galena, sending off at the present site of this village, branches toward the north and west, one in the direction of Fort Atkinson, starting from Birge's addition; the second from the east side of the creek toward Bark River. A little below the point where Birge's Mill now is, it crossed Whitewater Creek, then a silver thread half hidden by its grassy banks, its waters unobstructed by opposing dams, but flowing undisturbed from their fountain head.

Old Indian Village.—On the eastern bank of the stream, on the first rise of ground, there stood among the native oaks, about thirty skeleton huts, the "deserted village" of a former tribe. These huts were circular in form, each covering an area of about eighteen feet in diameter. They were formed of poles nearly fifteen feet in length, placed at a distance of five feet apart and bent together at the top so as to give it a dome-like appearance. On the west side of the creek, the original village and that part known as Chapman & Ludington's addition were then covered with openings, thickly wooded, as were most of the openings, composed, on the addition, mostly of bur oaks, and in the village proper of about an equal quantity of bur and yellow oaks. *The rise of ground on block fourteen, between Second and Third streets, extended across block thirteen and at the point of its greatest altitude, which was in the vicinity of Bower's block, it attained an elevation of about three feet greater than the highest point near William Richardson's house.

NOTE:—On the west side of Second St., back of the Richardson block, between Center and Whitewater Sts., was originally a knoll, or mound, about 20 feet high. On this, in early days, stood a "liberty pole," and there were held 4th of July demonstrations with anvil and powder. A spur of this knoll extended eastward to the present site of the City Hall. The earth removed in the grading down of this elevation was mostly used in filling in front of the railroad station, where was once a sort of swamp. C. M. Clark tells of breaking through the ice and nearly drowning, while skating, where the Cortland House barn now stands.

Indian Mounds. — A little distance west of the village, upon the farm of John M. Clark, and on the south side of the street usually known as the Prairie road, was an oblong mound, built upon the summit of a bluff and extending north and south sixty-five feet in length, twenty in width, and at the center nearly five feet in height. One hundred and twenty rods northeast of this, were found three other mounds, of a cone-like form, about twenty-five feet in diameter at the base, and nearly seven feet high; records left behind by those rude savages who inhabited these regions before the white man came, to tell the simple story that here they had lived and died.

Such was the country as found by the first settlers, who, young, vigorous, full of earnest hopes and bright anticipations, had left their eastern homes and friends and come here to pitch their tents and build for themselves a home and fortune. Difficulties they had to contend with, hardships to endure, and obstacles to overcome, but there were encouragements, too, and prophecies, full of promise to him who with strong arm and resolute heart came to do battle with the wilderness. For neighbors, since all were neighbors then, they had the Fosters at the Fort; the Walkers, Goodriches and Chickerings, at Milton; the Phoenixes at Delavan, and a few at Troy.

Natural Disadvantages.—They found themselves in possession of a tract of country rich in resources yet in some respects disadvantageously situated; for toward the east there lay a low wet piece of ground, bounded by a range of bluffs; toward the south and north, wide marshes blocked the way, while only toward the west was a country easy of access. Then the question arose, can a place so surrounded become an eligible spot for establishing a permanent and prosperous village; will it not be left far behind in the rapid race of progress and improvement, by the more favorably situated towns, newly started it is true, but having fewer of these natural obstacles to contend with? These were disadvantages certainly, and gave rise to some doubts as to the ultimate success of the enterprise, yet on the other hand, they knew that if the morasses were

once drained and a highway was flung across them, it would lead into a rich section of the country, of almost inexhaustible resources, which gave promise of strong support to any central settlement which should be started in its midst. Weighing carefully the chances of failure and success, counting well the cost, yet looking forward to the rich reward, they entered boldly upon the work, nothing daunted by the labors in the way, knowing well that a ready hand and willing heart, guided by a clear head and active will, were sure pledges of certain success.

Alvah Foster. — Either in the fall of eighteen hundred and thirty-six, or early in the spring of the following year, Alvah Foster made the first claim in this section by marking his name upon a tree on the east side of the Whitewater. This, in those early times, was regarded as a sufficient evidence of ownership. But this can scarcely be considered as the first step in the establishment of the town, since, as the sequel will show, the claim was made with no permanent settlement.

THE YEAR 1837.

Benoni Finch and Party.—About the first of April in the spring of eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, Benoni Finch and four of his brothers, together with Calvin West, William Barron and others to the number of twenty, came to seek a home among these wilds. Three of the number—Joseph Nichols, Mr. Kelley and Mr. Brown—were accompanied by their wives and families, who came prepared to bravely endure the many dangers and hardships inseparable from pioneer life. They started from Milwaukee with two wagons laden with their household goods, and upon the sixth night, after a weary march, they spread their tents upon the east side of the Whitewater, near the spot where now stands the *house of Aaron Ostrander. From Fox River, they found no track to guide them except the Indian trail, before described, nor was a dwelling seen in all that distance to cheer their sight, they having made the

*This is the southernmost house on the west side of Wisconsin St., as one goes to the Hillside Cemetery.

first wagon-track in the town of Whitewater. Joseph Nichols was the engineer of the party. He, in company with two or three others, went in advance to mark the route. With no instruments to guide them, they pursued their way fearlessly and boldly, relying alone upon the sure eye of their leader; for Joseph was a traveling compass in and of himself. Others soon followed their lead, and this track, for some years after, bore the name of "Finch's Track." Its course was nearly the same as that of the road which now runs from Whitewater to Mukwonago by the way of Round Prairie.

On the following morning, refreshed by such slumber as only the weary emigrant can know, they made preparations for the renewal of their journey. Leaving at the camp the women and children and three or four men of the party, the remainder, provided with two horses laden with provisions and blankets, started forth to explore the country and fix upon some point for settlement. Before starting, William Barron jumped the claim—as the expression was—of Foster to this section, by marking his name upon a tree. They followed down the Indian trail on the east side of the Whitewater, until they struck the army trail of General Atkinson, which was below *Horton's Mill. This they followed to Fort Atkinson, whence they proceeded to the place where the Finches and Barrons now reside, about eight miles west of the village of Whitewater. To them, that seemed the "promised land," so eagerly sought, which, if not literally "flowing with milk and honey," at least promised no mean reward to him who with hearty good will should set to work to tame its wildness and bring out the hidden riches of the soil. Here they made their claims and built their cabins, laying the foundations of their future homes.

William Barron.—After William Barron had secured his claim to his new possessions, according to the squatter sovereignty, his thoughts reverted to his former claims, and about the tenth of July he returned here to more fully secure the same, since by ordinance the sovereigns had declared that a mark upon a tree was

*At Cold Spring, first called Brinktown, or Brink's Mill.

not sufficient evidence of title. Soon after his return, he cut about half the trees for the log house which stands south of the plough factory of Winchester & Partridge, and the probability is that William Barron was the first man who felled a tree upon section four, or jumped a claim in this vicinity. Previous to cutting the logs, he saw Alvah Foster concerning the claim he had formerly made, which was readily relinquished by that gentleman, who remarked at the time that there was not a sufficient water power for mill purposes, and being so surrounded by low land a long time must necessarily elapse before it would be settled here, adding that the Fort possessed many advantages over this place.

Samuel Prince.—The next person who wandered into these regions with the intention of permanent settlement was Samuel Prince, who came here about the middle of April. He went from Waukesha to Fort Atkinson; from thence he followed the Indian trail—which, crossing the Birge's addition, extended to Geneva Lake —until it struck Whitewater Prairie on section six. As his eye rested upon this, the scene which met his view more than equaled his imagination; his eyes were satisfied, but he was not ready to depart; everything around charmed and delighted him, and hither he determined to bring his household goods, and here to erect his home. When he had made a claim to the south-east quarter of section six, as was the custom in those times, by marking his name, with the date, upon a tree, he set out to make a circuit of the country, stopping at Milton, Janesville, Delavan, and Troy, in order that he might learn what manner of men he had for neighbors, and also that he might the better satisfy himself in regard to the superior attractions of the spot he had chosen above those of these neighboring places.

The Custom Regarding Land Claims.—According to the law of the sovereigns, his mark was sufficient evidence of possession; but this custom was open to many objections and liable to the greatest abuse, for a person in search of a claim would often make his mark upon the first piece of land whose soil and location pleased him,

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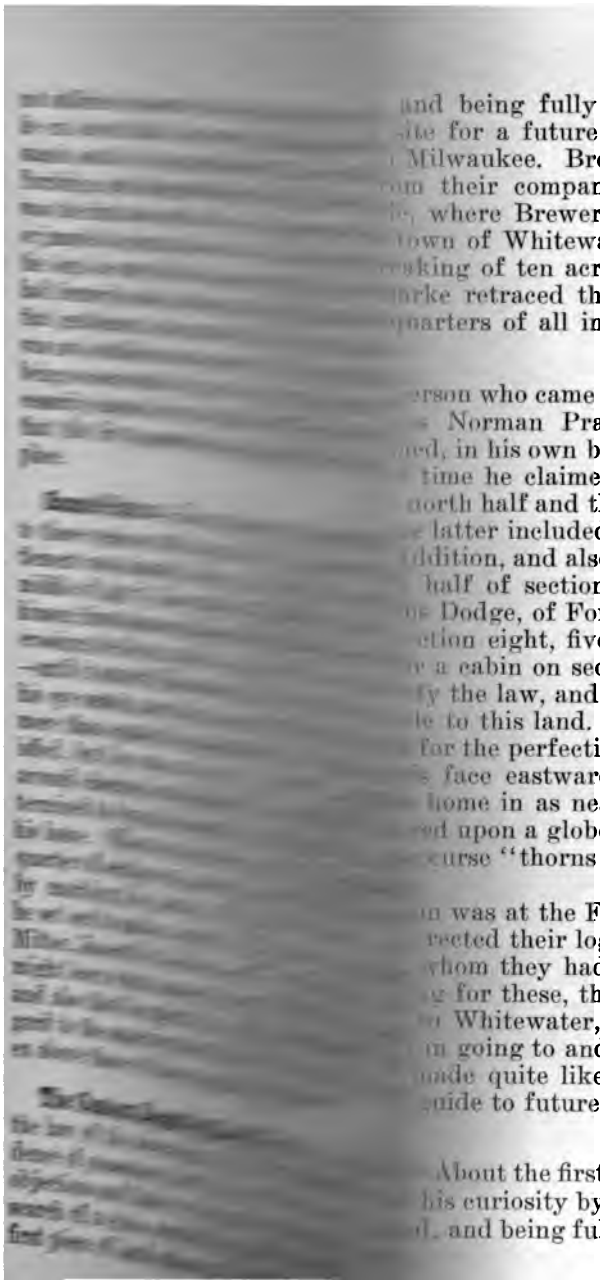

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and then, passing still further on until he found some place which seemed to him more desirable and attractive, would carve his name upon a second tree, thus making another claim. Any other person, following him and wishing to settle upon this former claim, was obliged to search out the claimant, and often to pay him from twenty-five to a hundred dollars for his title. A few, more daring or less conscientious than the others, totally ignoring the knowledge of any previous title, quietly took possession, trusting to the fortune of war for retaining possession of what they had seized; and this was called jumping a claim. This mode of procedure could give rise to much confusion as well as to much injustice, for designing, scheming men could make as many claims as their fancy or cupidity might dictate, and thus establish a by no means unprofitable traffic in claims. As immigration increased, the sovereigns soon perceived that this course of things could but be highly prejudicial to the interests of the country, and about this time they amended their code, providing that unless a certain number of acres should be broken, or logs for a cabin be cut, within a specified time, the claim should be considered abandoned, and that, a second being made, the first should be forfeited.

The Birge Brothers.—On the ninth of May, William and Leander Birge, in company with Dr. Edward Brewer, left Milwaukee for the purpose of exploring the interior. They first went to Mukwonago, and from that place proceeded to Meacham's, at East Troy, where they were joined by Rufus Clarke. The four then directed their course towards Whitewater Prairie, and on the second night they camped upon section one in the town of Lima on the farm *now owned by Stephen Burrows. Finding their supplies of food somewhat scanty, they visited the Finch settlement, near Lake Koshkonong, but being unable to procure provisions there, they passed on to the Fosters at Fort Atkinson. From thence, the Birges went in the direction of Cold Spring, and where that village now stands they made a claim and built a shanty. Having remained there four or five days, in order to more

*Now occupied (1906) by Andrew Warner.

firmly establish their claim, and being fully satisfied that now they had found a site for a future magnificent village, they returned to Milwaukee. Brewer and Clarke, having separated from their companions, returned to Whitewater Prairie, where Brewer made a claim to section seven in the town of Whitewater, and having contracted for the breaking of ten acres in the south-west corner, he and Clarke retraced their steps to Milwaukee, then the headquarters of all immigrant parties.

Norman Pratt.—The next person who came with the intention of settling here was Norman Pratt, who, about the middle of July, claimed, in his own behalf, all of section eight. At the same time he claimed, in the name of Freeman L. Pratt, the north half and the south-east quarter of section five, (the latter included what is now Chapman & Ludington's Addition, and also Birge's Addition), and also the north half of section six for Dean Williams. He hired Rufus Dodge, of Fort Atkinson, to break eight acres on section eight, five on section five, and to cut the logs for a cabin on section six, that in all points he might satisfy the law, and thus obtain a clear and undisputed title to this land. Having completed all the arrangements for the perfecting of his claim, he once more turned his face eastward, firmly persuaded that he had found a home in as nearly perfect a place as could be discovered upon a globe against which had been pronounced the curse "thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth."

At this time, the nearest cabin was at the Finch settlement, where the settlers had erected their log houses, ready to receive their families, whom they had left behind at Milwaukee. In returning for these, they made a track direct from their claim to Whitewater, and following their former route, both in going to and coming from Milwaukee, a track was made quite like a road, and sufficiently plain to form a guide to future wanderers.

First House in Whitewater.—About the first of July, Samuel Prince, having gratified his curiosity by visiting the different settlements around, and being fully satis-

fied that his first selection far surpassed in beauty and desirableness any which he had since seen, returned to the unmolested, undisturbed possession of the same. He immediately commenced the erection of a dwelling, which should be at once his home and his castle. Alone he toiled until it was completed. When finished it was about twelve feet square and eight feet high from the foundation to the eaves, being formed of small, straight logs. This was the first house built in the town of Whitewater, a short distance from Mr. Prince's present *residence; but although it was then considered a dwelling fit for a prince, it has since been degraded to the ignoble use of a hen-house. In honor of the man who was the first permanent settler here, and who erected the first house in town, Prince street, on Birge's Addition, has been so named.

During the month of July, Rufus Dodge, in fulfilment of his contract with Norman Pratt, sent Calvin West and another person, with his team, to do the breaking as agreed upon. They pitched their tent upon the north-west quarter of the same section. Barron camped with them while cutting the logs. About the same time a man named Sawyer claimed the south-west quarter of section five, and employed West to break for him a sufficient quantity to secure his claim, in all probability, turning the first furrow in the town of Whitewater.

The Birges Arrive.—Near the middle of July, William and Leander Birge, Dr. Edward Brewer, and Charles Hamilton arrived at Whitewater, and camped with Samuel Prince. They brought with them seven yoke of oxen, one wagon, and two breaking plows. They came amply provided with all the necessaries of life, their stores consisting of four barrels of flour, two of Hoosier pork, and a quantity of potatoes, for which they paid only two dollars per bushel. They were also supplied with tea and coffee, which were then numbered among the luxuries of life. They were five days in coming from Milwaukee to Whitewater. After resting here two or three days the Birges proceeded to take possession of their Cold Spring estate. Brewer

*On the site now occupied (1906) by Ralph Tratt.

and Hamilton went heartily to work in improving the claim which the former had previously made. They also claimed the north half of section eighteen. The Birges, after remaining a short time at Cold Spring, wisely concluded that they could not found a town there which would eventually become the village of the surrounding country, and returning again to Whitewater, camped once more with Samuel Prince. William and Leander then jumped the claim of Norman Pratt, to the south-east quarter of section five. William also claimed the north-west quarter of section four,* lying next north of the village proper, Leander claimed the west half of the north-east quarter of the same section, now included in Dann's Addition. The brothers immediately commenced ploughing on the south-east quarter of section five, in order to give them the better title, since there had been no improvement then made upon this quarter by the Pratts.

The Settling of Richmond.—Next in the order of time, is the settling of the town of Richmond. The first settler there was Morris F. Hawes, who, on the first day of August, arrived on section one, to the south half of which he immediately laid claim. The previous night, they camped upon Rock Prairie ;and now, as soon as they had halted, preparations were made for breakfast. They were quite primitive in their character, and soon finished. The table was formed of a board laid across some poles, chairs were taken from the wagon, and all sat down to their first meal in their new home.

The Journey of 'Squire Hawes.—'Squire Hawes had removed from Michigan, and as he was among the more wealthy of the early settlers, and may be supposed to have traveled quite as comfortably and stylishly as most of them, a short sketch of his journey and first commencement here may not prove uninteresting. His equipage, when he left Chicago, consisted of four yoke

*Section 4 comprises the greater portion of the present city lying east of Franklin street, the western line of section 4 being the center of Franklin street, and its eastern line the center of Newcomb street. The Barron log house was situated south of the wagon works, between the railroad track and pond, but not a vestige of it is now remaining.

of oxen and three wagons. One of these was boarded up at the side and back about four feet and a half above the box and covered at the top. This served them not only as a family carriage, but also as parlor, bed room, and pantry. His family consisted of himself, wife, and six children, young ladies, lasses, and lads. Their daily progress was from twelve to twenty miles. They found a track as far as Geneva; after leaving that place, their only guide was the Indian trail which led to Fort Atkinson. When they stopped for the night thy "put up" at no hotel and had no landlord, landlady, or cook with whom to find fault; for they were their own hotel-keepers. When the shades of evening warned them that it was time to secure a resting place for the coming night, they selected some spot near which flowed a stream or spring of clear water, and where wood could be procured. Their first business was to collect fuel for kindling a fire. This duty devolved upon the men of the party. The women then succeeded to the peculiarly feminine task of preparing the meal. This ready, they all sat round their rude table in true gipsy style. Though their fare was simple, yet the feast of an epicure could not have been partaken of with a keener relish; and I will venture to say that those rude meals, cooked by an open fire and eaten beneath the forest shade were far sweeter to their taste than any of the carefully prepared delicacies which now load their tables. They fully attested the truth of the old proverb, "a good appetite is the best sauce," In the morning, they proceeded upon their way with the rising of the sun, and after traveling four or five miles would halt for breakfast. This disposed of, the dishes being washed and packed away, they would start anew, not stopping again until night, their dinner consisting only of a lunch taken in the wagon. If they chanced to be in the vicinity of a dwelling near dark, they would stop for the night, using the fire of the house for cooking purposes. And the strangers were always sure of a warm and hearty welcome, for a lack of hospitality could not be charged against the early settlers. Such, in brief, was the mode of traveling then, at once wild and fascinating, and yet wearisome and full of toil.

The Making of the Home.—But even when their journey was accomplished, and they had reached their destination, the prospect before them must have seemed somewhat dark and dubious. Their surroundings were certainly little calculated to inspire hope. They had no roof to shelter their heads, no neighbor within miles of them, a trackless prairie upon one side and a wood as trackless upon the other; huge oaks, trees of a century's growth, stood thick around, but these were to be felled and hewn and joined together, before they could serve for protection and shelter alike from sunshine and storm. An easily tilled and productive soil lay ready for their hands, but much labor was required, and the sun must once again complete his annual round before they could hope to reap of the fruits of the earth. Yet nothing daunted, with hopeful hearts and cheerful faces they went right heartily to work, and by Saturday night their cabin was so far completed as to allow of its occupation by the family. The logs were rough hewn on the inside; the roof was made of shakes, which resembled staves, and were about four feet long; being riven either from the white or yellow oak. These were placed upon poles laid lengthwise of the building, and over them were placed larger poles to keep them firm. The 'Squire had brought glass and sash for his windows from Chicago. For frames he took the boards which, on the road, had formed their wagon home. The floor was made of the wagon boxes; and it might seem strange to the uninitiated to know the different uses to which these same boxes were put, now being used as a floor and now as wagon boxes in going to mill, the ground meanwhile serving as floor and carpet, for in those days there was no superfluous lumber, and a board was a treasure.

About this time, also, Burch Utter and Sanborn came into that region. Utter claimed the south-west quarter of section thirty-one, in the town of Whitewater and Sanborn the south-west quarter of section two in the town of Richmond; and both immediately commenced to improve their claims.

The Pratts Arrive.—Near the first of September, Norman and Freeman Pratt accompanied by their

wives and Dean Williams, came to take possession of their western home. Upon arriving at Milwaukee, they hired a team to bring them here. The night before reaching their destination, they camped with True Rand and Elijah Worthington upon Heart Prairie. The Rands had just made their claim and were then using their covered wagon and cloth tent as a dwelling. Besides, there had settled upon the prairie, Volney, McCracken, Noyes and Samuel Niblic. A part of the house in which McCracken now lives had then been erected and two of Volney's sisters, Emiline and Elizabeth, were keeping house for them.

Dispute Over a Claim.—From the Rands, the Pratts proceeded to Fort Atkinson, and leaving their wives at the Fosters', returned to their claim, which they found unmolested, except that the Birges had jumped their claim to the *south-east quarter of section five. The first work was to establish their claim to this, for which purpose the two parties met, each pleading his own cause, for in those days every man was his own lawyer. The point was to decide concerning the construction to be given to the sovereigns' code. The Pratts asserted the validity of their title by virtue of the claim made to the north half and south-east quarter, contending that the breaking done upon the north half was sufficient to hold the whole, and was all that the code required. The Birges, on the other hand, maintained that when two pieces were claimed, each piece should be marked, and improvements made on each; that the mark, with the date, should be made near each corner, and in such a manner as to be plainly visible; and that the improvements should be made within the limited time, declaring that at the time they made their claim, there was no such evidence of a previous claim. They further asserted that marking a tree and making improvements upon the north half gave no title whatever to the south-east quarter. This was their interpretation of the code. William and Leander were both good talkers, Leander rather the smoother of the two. Freeman Pratt could not speak quite so fast as the others, but Norman was not a whit

*Between Franklin and South Prince streets.

behind in the gift of speech, and could easily talk for both. The point was warmly argued upon both sides, but finally resulted in the Pratts withdrawing their claim, and relinquishing their right to the Birges. This being settled, the Pratts bought a claim from Sawyer, and they and the Birges went to work each to erect a dwelling; the Pratts and Dean Williams boarded at Prince's.

Zerah Mead.—In the latter part of September, Zerah Mead, Esq., arrived at the Prince boarding house, where he found the proprietor, Samuel Prince, Charles Hamilton, William and Leander Birge, Norman and Freeman Pratt, and Dean Williams; here he at once engaged board. Each, in turn, attended to the domestic matters, assuming for the time the office of cook and housekeeper. Their bill of fare consisted of pork, potatoes, bread, and tea; then for variety, potatoes and pork, with cakes—a simple mixture of flour and water—and coffee. Thus they lived in true bachelor freedom.

"Sole monarchs of all they surveyed."

The most perfect unity and friendship existed between them with the exception of the young men of the party, between whom there had arisen a slight jealousy soon after learning of the arrival of the newcomers at Richmond and Heart Prairie—a pardonable rivalry, certainly, since it in no wise disturbed their harmony and good fellowship.

Zerah Mead, after looking around for some place that suited him, claimed the north-west quarter of section ten, and immediately commenced erecting a log house. He was very extravagant, hewing his logs on the outside as well as the inside, and built a house which seemed mammoth in its proportions—eighteen feet by twenty-two, but its crowning glory was a shingle roof.

The First Women.—In the middle of October, the Pratts had so far completed their house that they returned to the Fort for their wives, and commenced living once more. These were the first women who settled in the town. Their *house is now standing on

*All trace of it is now obliterated.

the west side of Janesville road a little north of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad, on the farm of Samuel Noyes. The Birges, also, had their house, which stood at the south end of Whiton street, ready for occupation. William Birge, about the middle of September, had bargained for the claim of Barron, for which he had agreed to pay sixty dollars, but about this time having an offer from Daniel Butts for his interest in the claim, he sold it to him for two hundred dollars. Butts soon began building, and in November the log house south of the plow factory was occupied, being the first built on section four—Daniel Butts builder.

In the fall, Joseph Nichols claimed the south half of section one in the town of Lima, and soon established a cabin about fourteen feet square and covered with shakes.

At this time Solomon Herrington, Thomas Van Horn, and Hale were at work building the dam and sawmill on the west branch of Whitewater creek, in the town of Lima, about four miles southwest from this village.

Some time near the first of December, Rufus Clarke returned to Whitewater with his wife, and moved into the house of William and Leander Birge.

After Squire Mead had raised his house and prepared his shingles for his roof, he returned east after his family and spent the winter there.

Thus closed the year 1837; with the Birges and Clarke upon section five; Prince upon six; the Pratts upon eight; Johnson, Hamilton, and Brewer on seven, with a family in the house with them by the name of Collins; Nichols, Herrington, Van Horn and Hale in Lima; Hawes, Sanborn, and Utter in Richmond; Rand, Worthington, McCracken, and Niblic at LaGrange; Loren R. Jones and Churchill at Hebron.

Preparation for the First Winter.—Before the Frost King had made his annual visit, the settlers had rendered themselves comparatively comfortable in their new homes. Their cabins were mudded and chinked, and though some cracks and crevices might be found for the entrance of rude and ill-mannered breezes, yet by the aid of roaring fires within, and mud without, they hoped to bid defiance to winter's keenest blasts.

Though there was much to encourage, there was much to dishearten; they missed the well filled granaries, bursting with their rich treasures, and the cellars stored with products of the garden; they missed the luscious, golden fruit, and a thousand other of the many comforts and luxuries to which they had been accustomed, so accustomed that they almost deemed them the necessaries of life, and were surprised to think they could live without them. Not less did they miss the busy market-place and the shops, with the tempting array and obliging clerk, where all the wants of the outer and inner man could be immediately supplied. There was no place nearer than Chicago or Milwaukee where even the most common articles could be procured, and to that distance were they obliged to go for all their purchases. Shopping was not then the pastime of the ladies, but something to be undertaken solemnly, with care and thought, a leaf to be turned down in memory's book and referred to long afterwards.

But winter was now fast approaching, the first winter in a new land. The provisions which they had brought with them were nearly exhausted, and the demand for a further supply, imperative. Accordingly, Squire Hawes started for mill—then by no means the common-place thing it now is—with a wagon and two yoke of oxen. He went to Elgin, in Illinois, and after an absence of thirteen days, returned richly laden with flour and potatoes.

Supplies Run Low.—The Whitewater settlers bought their potatoes, (for which they paid one dollar a bushel), of St. John, a settler of '36, who resided near Janesville. Their stores of flour and pork being greatly diminished, Norman Pratt started for Elgin, a journey of no little difficulty and hardship at that time, as the cold weather had then commenced, and there were lowlands, marshes, creeks, and rivers to cross, without bridges or highways, and with only a blind track to guide him, and some of the time not even that, and it was concealed by a light snow. Before he returned, pork and flour had entirely disappeared from the settlement, and the bill of fare was reduced to salt and potatoes, and—potatoes and salt. The Pratts, having

two cows, possessed an advantage over the others, being able to introduce milk and butter as a variety in their diet. Pratt not making his appearance, and the time of his return being uncertain, William Birge and Charles Hamilton set out for Milwaukee, after breakfasting on the regular potatoes and salt. At Heart Prairie, while stopping to feed their teams, a cow, with udder distended, passed along. This they looked upon as a "special interposition," nor did they hesitate to appropriate the good gift sent, but filled their tea-kettle to the brim with the foaming milk, drinking copious draughts of the same, and thus refreshed proceeded on their way with fresh life and vigor, and bodily strength renewed. The day after their departure, Norman Pratt returned, bringing with him plenty of flour and some pork, for which he was obliged to go farther south.

Deer and Honey.—Yet in spite of their usual rude and primitive fare, they were not wholly destitute of luxuries, for at that time large herds of deer might often be seen, bearing high their heads, and sweeping with swift and graceful motion over the prairie, or through the forest glade. Rufus Clarke was the nimrod of the party, and many was the stately buck and timid doe which fell at the crack of his rifle. He had a generous heart withal, and was not slow to divide among his neighbors the spoils of the chase, and to his sure aim and steady hand were they indebted for many a savory morsel which found its way to their tables. He possessed, moreover, a peculiar faculty in detecting the home of the wild bee, and seeking out their store of sweets, and these too he distributed with a liberal hand among his many friends.

Joseph Nichols.—Joseph Nichols was also a great hunter of bees, and being a man of little means, he disposed of the fruits of his industry, exchanging the honey-comb for more substantial viands. Having collected about two hundred pounds of honey, he placed it upon a hand-sled and drew it into Milwaukee, procuring provisions in exchange. Upon his return, he brought with him a barrel of flour and some pork, being both team and driver. He was a man of firm, muscular build,

nearly equal in strength to any two in the diggings and to about four in these degenerate days. A most useful member of society he was, too; at all raisings he was present, where his good-nature and powerful muscles made him always welcome, and in his rambles he would mark out the track for a future highway—in fact nearly all the principal streets in this vicinity were first marked by him.

THE YEAR 1838.

The chief employment of the men, during the winter, was splitting rails for building their fences in the spring, for as yet there was not a single fence in this region, and also drawing logs to Herrington, Van Horn & Hale's saw mill.

The only newcomer during the winter was Curtice Utter, who claimed the south-east quarter of section thirty-six in Lima. But when the lakes were once free from ice, and spring with its warm and genial air had come again, the tide of emigration flowed westward once more.

About the middle of May, Squire Mead arrived with his family, stopping at the Pratts' until he could get the roof on his house, and could procure lumber for a floor from Herrington's mill. By July, he was fairly domiciled in his new home.

George P. Marston and William Cutter also came, taking possession of the claim made by Marston the year before, which is about half way between here and the Fort. George P. Marston, in writing of '37, says: "I can hardly realize the fact that I was one of the early settlers of the state, and that I have passed through it from the lake to the Mississippi upon an Indian pony, following the Indian trail and passing not more than half a dozen dwellings in the whole distance.

A Bachelor's Cabin.—Cutter was from Portland, Maine, Marston from Boston; both were then young men, full of life and vivacity, and right jolly times they had in their backwoods cabin. They being good company, generous and whole-souled, their dwelling was not only a place of frequent resort for the neighbors, but also for travelers, who were always sure to find here rest and a cordial welcome. As they had plenty of means

at their command, their dwelling may be taken as a fair representative of a bachelor's cabin. A description of it as it appeared upon an evening in December, when they had become fairly settled and domesticated, may not be amiss. It was built after the usual fashion, of logs, with shakes for a roof; its dimensions were fourteen feet by twelve, with loose boards for a floor. At one end of the room was the stove, at the other were two boards laid upon pegs driven in the logs, these served as a table; upon the same end was a board upon other pegs, covered with a mattress; this was their bed. On one side was still another board, over which hung a small glass, this served as a workstand, dressing-case, etc., etc. Under these and ranged against the wall, they kept their flour and other provisions, and their trunks containing their wardrobe, except such portions as hung upon the logs; under the table were two dressed hogs, the lesser part of one being already consumed. Cutter and Marston were preparing the supper, which consisted of fried pork, wheat cakes, potatoes, and coffee. Sitting on threelegged, slab stools, were two of the neighbors and a missionary, who had come to be a light to those sitting in darkness, and to prevent the Romanists from obtaining a footing here. Supper being announced, (after various comments made by Cutter, Marston and the neighbors,) they all drew around the board (literally) and commenced a vigorous attack upon the eatables, a blessing having been first pronounced by the missionary.

It is to be feared, however, that they quite disregarded the oft-repeated injunction of their mothers, "let your victuals stop your mouth." After supper was disposed of, Marston proposed a game of whist, and, knowing what was required by good manners, first inquired of the stranger if he would not "take a hand in." The invitation being refused, the others commenced and played the remainder of the evening. The missionary undoubtedly left them fully persuaded that he had a great work to perform.

Agitation for a Grist Mill.—Early in the spring the settlers being satisfied that Butts would not, and could not, improve the water power here, and having

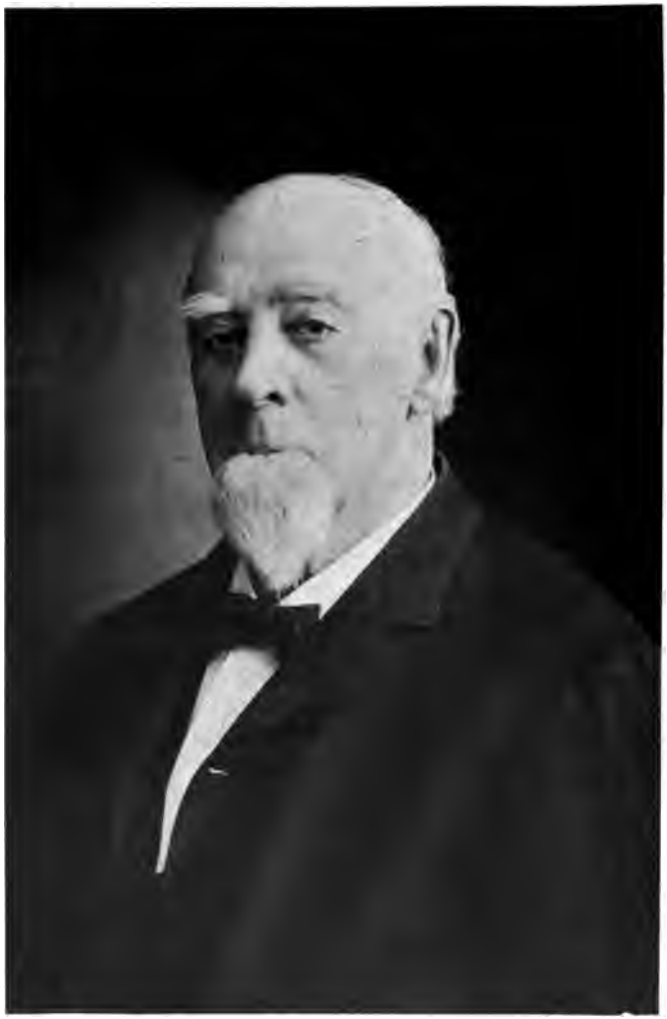
already had a practical demonstration of the evils consequent upon having so far to go to mill, they remonstrated with him upon the subject, informing him that he must either immediately erect a mill or surrender his claim to some one that would. Not having sufficient means to comply with the former of these alternatives, he relinquished his claim to his brother-in-law, John Shaw. Shaw took possession asserting, like the railroad men of the present day, that he had the means and would commence next week.

Settlers on Heart Prairie and Elsewhere.—During the year 1838, George and Robert Esterly, James Holden, Edward DeWolf, William McDougall, and James Burt settled upon Heart Prairie, all having made their claims the year before. Gabriel Cornish and two of his sons, Marshall Newhall, Caleb Morris, and Garret Cornish made claims upon Round Prairie. Joseph Humphrey, Joseph Compton, Cyrenus Wilcox and John Teetshorn came to Richmond, and Samuel and George B. Hall found their way to Lima, George B. claiming section nineteen.

In the spring, Willard B. Johnson bought out the interest of Hamilton & Brewer in the claim on sections seven and eighteen, and Hamilton made a claim in Richmond.

About the first of October, Richard Hoppin and Hon. David J. Powers arrived at Whitewater. Hoppin claimed the south-west quarter of section one.

David J. Powers.—Mr. Powers in his account of those early times, writes thus: "Early in October, 1838, myself and wife landed in Milwaukee, direct from New England, after a long canal and lake voyage of about three weeks duration, that being the fastest mode of the times. Happening to make the acquaintance of W. B. Johnson, Esq., he gave such a glowing description of Whitewater that we were led in our first interior exploration to visit it. The trip was performed on foot and alone, and through a country almost wholly unsettled, there being hardly a dozen houses between Milwaukee and Rock River on the route of travel, and many of them but bachelors' cabins.



DAVID J. POWERS

"On my trip, I got belated in Whitewater Bluffs, and came near having to camp out solitary and alone for the night, but luckily, just as it began to be too dark to keep the trail, the light of a cabin was seen in the distance. It proved to be the house of Zerah Mead, Esq.; he hospitably entertained me to my first night's lodging in the valley of the Rock River.

The next day, by appointment, I met my beforementioned friend, W. B. Johnson, at his log cabin on the site now occupied by the fine mansion of J. M. Clark. He being a single man and much of the time absent, I made a bargain with him to occupy his house for the winter.

"I paid $75 for an ordinary yoke of oxen, $30 for a cow, 25 cents per bushel for potatoes, 50 cents for corn, 75 cents for buckwheat, $30 a barrel for pork at Milwaukee, and $1.25 per hundred for hauling our goods from Milwaukee, but luckily we had only a few. Having a few tools, a little lumber, and considerable ingenuity, I soon constructed everything needful for housekeeping, not only for our own little family, but for half a dozen boarders who sojourned with us during the winter."

The Second Autumn.—In October of 1838, we find the condition of the settlers vastly improved from that of the preceding year. Their cabins were more comfortable; seed-time and harvest had come and gone, and they had gathered of the first fruits of the land; plenty smiled upon them; they had sufficient not only for home consumption, but enough to divide with the stranger who should come, unprovided, among them. To the wayfaring man their doors ever stood open, and nightly were their cabins filled with those who came to find a home in these broad and fertile regions. Yet amidst all this abundance and success, there were clouds to dim the sunlight of their prosperity. Anxieties and perplexities arose to harrass and annoy. Government had advertised that upon the 19th of November, 1838, the land would be sold to the highest bidder. This would bring it at a much earlier period than they supposed, and consequently many found themselves unprepared, having expended a greater part of their means in improving their claims, buying stock, etc.

A Mass-Meeting Concerning the Mill-Site.—A source of additional anxiety was found in the fact that Shaw had not yet commenced building the mill and it was further ascertained, upon inquiry, that he had not sufficient means even to purchase the land, leaving improvements out of the question. In this dilemma, a meeting of the sovereigns was called to devise ways and means whereby the present condition of things might be remedied. They assembled, and their business not being "how not to do it," their deliberations were to the point. It was resolved "that the interests of the settlement demanded the erection of a grist mill on Whitewater creek, at the mill site on the south half of section four, and that no one should be permitted to bid off the said south half at the land sale unless he would give bond to erect a mill and have it in operation within one year; that Shaw should either give the bond or sell out at a fair price; and if he would do neither, to drive him off the premises." A resolution was a law with them, and to resolve was to do.

They appointed a committee, consisting of W. B. Johnson, David J. Powers, and Norman Pratt, with instructions to carry this resolution into immediate execution. This was the first public meeting in the town of Whitewater. They certainly made a wise selection of officers, for they could not have found three better men for the execution of their edict. All were young men, full of action and go-ahead-ativeness, with plenty of combativeness, and were withal fluent and forcible speakers. The committee, in turn, were sure of the hearty aid and co-operation of the people in the enforcement of the law, even should they be forced to resort to the last clause. The settlers of Koshkonong, Lima, Milton, and LaGrange were scarcely less interested than were those of Whitewater in the erection of a mill, and were ready to lend a helping hand should it be necessary to resort to extreme measures, even to driving Shaw from the premises; or, should he bid at the land sale, to giving him an impromptu bath in Milwaukee River. The settlers had the advantage, inasmuch as the state tribunal of the sovereigns was bound to give force to the laws of the different settlements.

Their decision was final as far as the title was concerned. There was not a settler in any of the above mentioned towns who did not fully endorse the whole resolution, except William Barron and William Birge, and they objected only to the last clause; not having yet received their pay for the claim, their zeal was naturally somewhat abated, as it might endanger their demand should the last clause be put into effect. Fully confident of success, and impressed with the importance of the trust reposed in them, the committee entered upon their duties, which they effectually and speedily discharged.

Reminiscence by Squire Mead.—In writing of these times, Squire Mead says, "The speedy erection of a grist mill absorbed the minds of all, and a meeting of the settlers, a week previous to the land sale, was held to devise some plan for having a mill erected. A committee was appointed to look up a capitalist who would buy Shaw's claim to the water power, and give his bond to the settlers that a mill with one run of stone should be put in operation within one year. The committee proceeded to Milwaukee, and after making proposals to several men of capital, who were willing to buy the land and build the mill, but were unwilling to pay Shaw for the claim, they met Dr. Trippe, who had just landed, and made the proposal to him. It struck his fancy, and although he had never been to Whitewater or seen the property or country around, yet from the description and representations of the committee, he was induced to embark in the enterprise." Mr. Powers, in reference to the same, says, "The settlers being fully conscious of the importance of the mill power, in the subsequent development of the country, determined at an early day that its claimant, Shaw, should bind himself to erect a good flouring mill thereat or sell out to someone who would. In pursuance to this purpose a meeting was called about November, 1838, and steps taken to effect the purpose. Among other things a committee was appointed, W. B. Johnson, Norman Pratt, and myself, and instructed to carry out the public wishes by either obliging him to build a mill or by buying him out at a fair price, and if he would do neither,

to drive him off the premises. The matter became more urgent, for the reason that the sale of the land by government was just about to ensue (Nov. 19, 1838), and after he had once obtained a government title, the chance of squatter sovereignty compulsion in the matter would become difficult if not impossible. The committee on undertaking their task, found said Shaw to be a regular southern Hoosier and a good deal of a trump, backed up by certain nephews resident upon Heart Prairie, by the name of Butts. They proposed to fight it out unless they could get an exorbitant price. In this shape the matter dragged, until the sale at Milwaukee, when after a protracted effort and a great deal of loud and bloody talk, a trade was finally consummated by the payment, by the committee, in third parties' hands, of the sum of $500 for the claim, right to section of the land, and water power. The next thing was to find a purchaser who would improve the property.

Dr. James Trippe.—"Asaph Pratt, Esq., who had just come on from the east to visit his sons, and with his pockets full of money, offered to furnish the capital to his son Norman and me, if we wished to buy and improve the property; but being youthful and distrustful of our abilities for so large an undertaking, we declined, whereupon he suggested to us a certain Dr. Trippe, who had come around the lake with him and had spoken of wanting to buy a water power. We at once looked him up and stated our case. It seemed to strike him favorably and after a little deliberation he replied, 'Gentlemen, I have faith in your statements, though strangers, and will agree to take the property off your hands, and make the improvements you require, during the next season.' The trade was closed at once, and Trippe became possessed of one of the prettiest town sites in the territory, and the town site of a straightforward and worthy owner."

Contract with Dr. Trippe.—The committee, having made the contract with Dr. Trippe, executed to him a quit claim deed of the premises; and they together executed an agreement as follows: This agreement made this 20th of November, 1838, between Willard B. Johnson, Norman Pratt, and David J. Powers of the

first part, and James Trippe of the second part, witnesseth as follows, to-wit:

Whereas, The said parties of the first part, have this day conveyed by quit claim to said party of the second part, all their right, title and interest to the south half of section four, township four, range fifteen, in Walworth County, and

Whereas, The sum of $500 has this day been advanced by said Trippe, and placed in the hands of Elisha Newell, of Rock County, to be paid to John Shaw, Stephen Butts and Daniel Butts, from whom said Johnson, Pratt, and Powers purchased said premises, provided they, the said Shaw, Butts, and Butts shall not in any manner interfere so as to prevent the said Johnson, Pratt, and Powers from purchasing said premises at the coming land sale at the minimum price.

Now if the said Trippe shall in any manner be prevented from purchasing said premises at said land sale, then said Johnson, Powers, and Pratt are to refund to the said Trippe the said sum of $500.

The said party of the second part agrees to and with the said parties of the first part, that he will erect or cause to be erected and put in operation on said premises, and within one year from the coming land sale in this district, a good substantial grist mill, such as the wants of the inhabitants of the surrounding country shall require.

In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, this 20th of November, 1838.

In presence of

W. HOOKER.

WILLARD B. JOHNSON (Seal),
NORMAN PRATT (Seal),
JAMES TRIPPE (Seal),
D. J. POWERS (Seal).

The $500 being paid by the doctor, there arose some dispute between Birge and Butts as to which should pay Barron, Birge contending that he was to receive $200 for his interest, and if Barron had any interest it belonged to Butts to satisfy his claim. This looked like good logic to Butts, and he accordingly paid $200 to Birge, $60 to Barron and the balance to himself and Shaw.

On the 21st or 22d day of the month, news came that the land sale was postponed until the 21st of February, 1839.

Dr. Trippe at Troy Lake.—Dr. Trippe was at this time residing in the town of East Troy, near the outlet of Troy Lake, where he had a saw mill in operation. He settled there in the summer of 1837, and at the time the committee met him in Milwaukee, was just returning from a visit to Montgomery County, New York, his former place of residence. W. B. Johnson in writing of him says: "Early in the winter of '37, going from Whitewater to Milwaukee, I stopped at the doctor's over night. My horse was tired out, and there was no grain in the country; the doctor having brought a quantity for seed, gave my horse some, which put new life into him, and from that time on I always stopped with them going to or coming from Milwaukee, and in fact it was the only place where they had anything for one to eat. Their house was always open to everyone—money or no money—it made no difference. No one ever went away from there hungry."

Prices in 1838.—From an account book, kept at the time, of bills paid at Milwaukee, we have the following list of prices:

Sept. 7th, one barrel of flour, $8.50; 6¼ pounds of coffee, $1.17; 11½ pounds of sugar, $2.16; Nov. 23d, 29 pounds of pork, $4.64; 62½ pounds of butter, $23.52; two gallons molasses, $1.56; one barrel flour, $10; carting barrel salt from Milwaukee, $4.75. Sept. 3d, repairing plow, $3.11; expenses to Janesville to get it repaired, $10.18; 46 bushels of seed wheat, $70; expense in getting wheat, $6.50; 1½ bushels corn meal, $1.50; one side of venison, $1, showing that the expenses of living were by no means inconsiderable.

Religious Movements.—Notwithstanding the cares and anxieties of a temporal nature with which the settlers had to contend, they were not unmindful of their spiritual and moral culture. Through the exertions of Johnson, Elder James Flanders, a Methodist preacher who now resides at Baraboo (1858), was engaged to preach once in three weeks. He fulfilled his engagements fully and punctually. His first sermon was

preached about the middle of November at the home of W. B. Johnson, where his meetings were usually held. Once or twice, he had service in the house of the Birges. He was a faithful and zealous preacher and abated none of his zeal on account of the smallness of his congregation; he probably had faith that it was seed sown on good ground and would bring forth a hundred fold; and were he now to visit Whitewater and see the Christian and moral virtues of the place, growing from the example of the pioneers, he would be satisfied that his labors were not in vain.

Willard B. Johnson's Barn Dedicated.—During the fall, W. B. Johnson raised the frame for a barn, which was the first frame erected in the town, and of course was looked upon as quite an event. In the evening, he gave a splendid ball, at which all the beauty and chivalry of the surrounding country assembled. His spacious room of sixteen by twelve was thrown open for the reception of his guests; as this ordinarily served him for parlor, dining-room, kitchen, and pantry, now it was in addition to these, reception-room, drawing-room, dancing hall and all. There were present of the ladies, the three Misses Hawes, three Misses Humphrey, Miss Mott, Miss Keech, Miss Collins, Mrs. Clarke, and the two Mrs. Pratts.

Norman and Freeman drew the bow and discoursed sweet music, to which merry feet kept time in the mazes of the dance. They well knew how to draw forth those witching strains which set the feet of listeners in motion.

A right jolly, good, old-fashioned dance they had in the little room, none of your stiff affairs where everybody looks as if he were dancing at his own funeral, but mirth and frolic led on the hours, and all enjoyed themselves without trying to.

It may seem strange that twelve ladies could occupy so small a place and almost incredible that there still should be room to dance, but we must remember that the women of '38 to '46 did not require as much space as those of '58,* their circumference being beautifully less.

*The day of hoop-skirts.

Good-Fellowship Among the Pioneers.—The winter of '38, like that of '37, was spent, for the most part, by the settlers in preparing fencing, drawing lumber, and gathering tamarack poles for rafters in building, for fences, etc. The men having no "down town" to which they could go when the labors of the day were ended, to hear the news, discuss politics, or speculate on the probable rise or fall of stocks, were glad to meet their neighbors of a winter's evening and talk with them of matters pertaining to their little world; and on many a moonlit night was the only horse team in the settlement (owned by the Buttses) chartered for the occasion and sent round to gather in the guests for some merry-making. Their gatherings then were necessarily less conventional than now, for they had left behind them old associations, and felt in some measure cut loose from the former rules and stiff conventionalities of society, and its cold ceremonies and hollow forms seemed out of place where all was so fresh and vigorous, so wholly earnest and living. Besides, there was a bond of sympathy between all in their common pursuits and interests, which rendered their intercourse less reserved, more cordial and frank-hearted.

It was not necessary then for one to build up his fortune by pulling down that of his neighbor; the rule was not "one person's gain is another's loss," for there was ample room for each to work and grow and increase in worldly stores, without crowding his neighbor or trespassing upon his rights; consequently those petty jealousies and rivalries which spring up, it would almost seem necessarily, in a more advanced stage of society, were wholly unknown, but brotherly love and good-fellowship prevailed. Whether it is that the fewness of their numbers teaches them to prize the privilege of society, and develops the kindly and social feeling of the heart, or from some other cause, certain it is that a more whole-souled and heartfelt cordiality exists between the early settlers of a place, when things are in the beginning, than at any other time; a heartiness and zest, a pure delight and keen enjoyment in social intercourse, a joy in living, which only pioneers can know, and which they gradually lose as immigration

augments their numbers, bringing strangers into their midst and producing amongst them a diversity of aims and interests.

THE YEAR 1839.

The Sovereigns' Court.—During the winter, the settlers, in order to give force and effect to their proceedings, introduced more order and system into the sovereigns' code. They had a court, where all disputed titles to claims were decided, and from its decision there were no appeals. An executive was chosen, invested with full power to enforce the mandates of the court. They also appointed a person to bid at the coming land sale.

The Land Sale.—When this came off (in February) each settler was in attendance. The person appointed to bid off the land was provided with a book, containing the name of every settler, together with a description of his claim. As soon as the piece was offered for sale, he bid the regular $1.25 per acre, and no one was allowed to bid over him or before him. He was fully protected in his office, for at his side stood the high sheriff of the sovereigns and his deputies, with the whole body of settlers in the Milwaukee land district for their "posse," ready, at the word of command, gently and quietly to convey any intruder to the banks of the river, and more than one rebel against the law was consigned to the cold waters of the Menominee as the just reward of his temerity in setting at naught the will of the sovereign people. The muscular frames and eager, determined faces of that "posse" struck terror to the hearts of all land sharks, and speedily convinced them the Milwaukee land district was no place for them to operate in. Many of the claimants, being unprovided with means to pay for their claims, were under the necessity of engaging some one to purchase for them. Luckily, Martin O. Walker and Wadsworth & Dyer from Chicago, were there with means to accommodate them. To these men, most of those in this vicinity who had not facilities for buying were indebted for assistance. They certainly proved to be men of sterling integrity, and in no case did they show any disposition to take advantage of the settlers, and not one among

those who became obligated to them has ever cursed them that they had money.

At the sale, Dr. Trippe purchased the south half of section four, and all the other claimants of this region obtained titles to their claims without difficulty and with the most friendly feeling prevailing between all parties.

The Territorial Road.—During the winter, the Legislature passed an act for the laying of a Territorial road from Rochester, on Fox River, to Madison. Early in March, the commissioners commenced work. They were assisted through LaGrange and this town to the Fort, by the Birges and some others. This was the first road laid in the town. It commenced at Rochester, and the record says, "thirtieth mile post in Whitewater creek—creek two and a half feet deep." Main Street, west of the grist mill, formed a part of it. Field, of Waukesha, was the surveyor.

Azor Kinney and Prosper Cravath, Jr.—In the latter part of March, Azor Kinney and Prosper Cravath settled on the north half of section thirteen in the town of Lima. They found a log house, built for Kinney by D. J. Powers, ready for their reception. It was eighteen by twenty-two feet, had a shingle roof, and a floor formed of green oak boards loosely laid. It was chinked but not mudded. Not having any cook stove, all culinary operations were carried on by the aid of a fire built in the open air. They came by land from Huron County, Ohio, and were thirty days on the road. Dr. J. A. Clarke, from the same place, had come in advance and entered for them at the land sale, the said north half. He afterwards boarded with them. A young man by the name of Newton Baker came with Kinney. Cravath, by the middle of June, had the log part of the house now occupied by Daniel Smith so far completed that he moved into it, and though it may seem strange to many now, he built the house and made the shingles with his own hands. He also made a rocking chair for his wife, an armchair for himself and a small chair for his little ones, and stranger still, he became a noted shingle weaver.

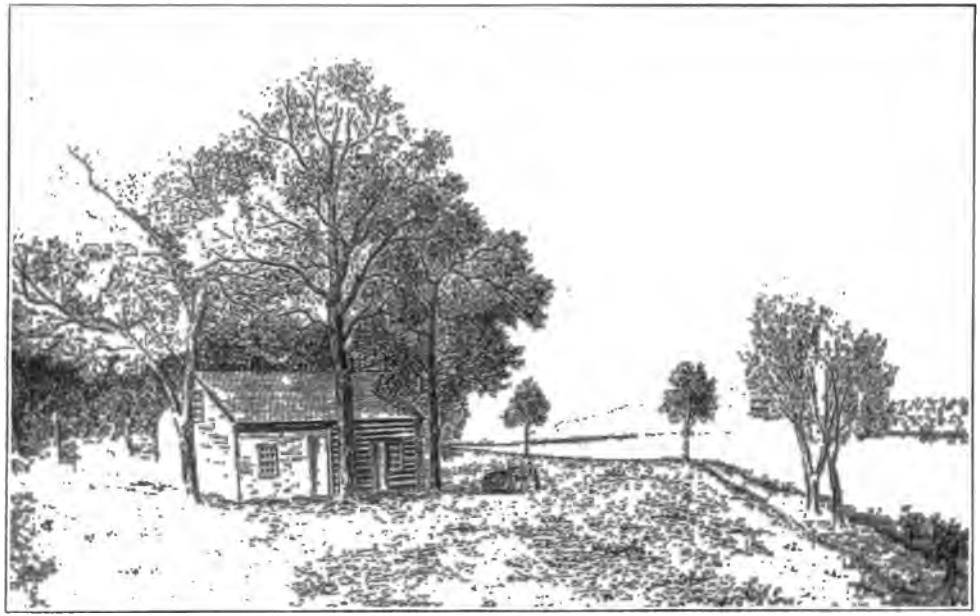
About the same time, the Janeses and Keeches arrived. William Janes and the Keeches settled in Lima, the others in Johnstown. D. J. Powers, having bought the claim of Joseph Nichols, entered the same at the land sale and took possession of the house on the premises. Abram Brink moved into the house of Willard B. Johnson; soon after he entered some land on the Fort road, near "Oak Lodge."

The Building of the Grist Mill.—About the middle of April, Dr. Trippe commenced to build the dam and erect the mill. A young man by the name of Benjamin Whitcomb was boss carpenter, and a person called Cutting was the millwright. On the 27th of June, the frame to the mill was raised. It was a raising in which every one felt interested, and all were present, ready, with a right good will, to lend a helping hand whenever required. Men came from Lima, Johnstown, Richmond, LaGrange, and the Fort, for they felt scarcely less anxious than the home population for the success and speedy accomplishment of the work. Near the old log house, a stone oven had been built, and this was the occasion of its first trial. Mrs. Trippe was on hand to superintend its management, aided and abetted by plenty of female help, and it was astonishing to behold what triumphs of culinary skill were drawn from its capacious recesses. When the frame was raised, and the last rafters properly jointed, all repaired to the house, where a well-provided repast, gotten up in Mrs. Trippe's most inimitable style, awaited them. After partaking heartily of the good things, and doing full justice both to their appetites and the dinner, they adjourned to the prairie, which is now *Birge's Addition. and dividing into companies, enjoyed a good round game of ball, varied with other athletic exercises.

New-comers in '39.—About this time, Justus Carpenter and Squire Parsons made a claim† on section thirty-two in the town of Cold Spring. William Hunter, then a lad, came with them. They soon erected a

*Between Summit and South Prince streets, south of the Esterly school.

†The Carpenter claim was the farm now (1906) owned by Chas. Church.



THE FIRST RESIDENCE OF DR. TRIPPE

(FROM A PENCIL SKETCH. MRS. TRIPPE MAY BE SEEN BESIDE HER BRICK OVEN, NEAR THE HOUSE)

house and with their families took immediate possession of their new quarters. Their claim was included in the Canal Reserve and was not then in market. Not long after them, Levi Johnson and Alexander Henderson came. The latter claimed the farm where he now resides, about three miles northeast from this village, and commenced making improvements. Joseph Powers also arrived and stopped with his brother. At this time, the first blacksmith shop was erected. It was a log building about fourteen feet square, and stood on lot one, block nine, just back of where Smith's store now is.

On the 10th of August, Seth M. Billings and Abraham Hackett arrived. Hackett entered the land on which he now lives, on section seventeen. About the same time Anderson Whiting settled in Richmond, near Captain James Humphrey, who had come the year before, and Morris Ensign made a claim near Utter's Corners.

Zerah Mead Made Justice of the Peace.—At this time, all of the north-west quarter formed an election precinct, known as the Town of Elkhorn. The settlers of the town were not satisfied with their means of redress, and petitioned Governor Dodge for the appointment of three justices. In the spring of '39, their petition was granted, and Zerah Mead, Wm. Bowman, and Jeduthan Spooner were appointed justices in and for the said Town of Elkhorn, which office Squire Mead has held from that day until the present time, 1858. He says of it: "I was totally ignorant of the forms and practices of justice's courts and, what was worse, could get no information, and was unable to procure a copy of the Statutes, and therefore proceeded to business without law. Before doing business, I visited the other two justices, and found them in the same dilemma as myself." The first suit was docketed on the 15th of June, 1839. On the 13th day of August, he obtained a copy of the Statutes.

The First Drover.—About the first of July, a drover with cattle made his appearance, much to the relief of the settlers. Cows sold from $18 to $30; oxen from $50 to $90 a yoke. For five or six years after, some

one from the southern part of Indiana or Illinois would annually come into these regions with a drove of cattle for sale. They were provided with Hoosier wagons covered with cloth, and carried with them their own provisions and lodgings. They would camp at some convenient place where water and pasture for their cattle could be readily procured, and there establish their market; for '39 and '40, block thirteen was their camping ground. Occasionally during '39 and for two years after, a Hoosier would wander this way with bacon and hams for sale, which was quite an accommodation to many.

Flour during the spring sold for $2.50 per hundred; butter for 50 cents per pound; potatoes from 15 to 25 cents per bushel; pork 14 cents per pound.

In October, Oliver C. Magoon and Warner Earle, Esq., arrived at Whitewater with their families. They stopped first at Squire Mead's, and afterwards with Freeman Pratt, until they could erect a house; this was soon in readiness to receive them; it was the log part of the house now owned by Horatio Morgan. During this month Sidney Workman also came.

About the middle of September, the grist mill was so far completed that one run of stone was in operation. William Birge was the first customer to have a grist ground in the new mill.

Death of Newton Baker.—On the 19th of September, Newton Baker died, cut down in early manhood, having only reached his twenty-first year. He was buried near where now stands the Methodist* Chapel, his being the first burial in town. His funeral was attended by no relatives, but a few friends there were to follow him to his last resting place. No priest was there to remind the living that they too must die, but a short and feeling prayer was offered by Justus Carpenter. His remains now rest in Grove Cemetery, among many of the old pioneers, and a beautiful head-stone marks the spot. Nineteen years have passed, but still friends beautify his grave, and as they visit the spot, remember that he once lived.

*On Church Street, site of the present German Lutheran Church.

Settlers at Milton and Johnstown.—At Milton, were to be found Joseph Goodrich, Capt. Jonathan Culver, O. H. Norton, Aaron Walker, Farnam Chickering, Royal Case, Thomas Waterman, Nathan G. and Grosvenor Storrs, and Rev. Daniel Smith.

John A. Fletcher, Elisha and Noah Newell, Capt. Caleb D. Hill, Henry Spencer, Daniel Philips, and Perkins J. Childs had settled in Johnstown in '37, and Jacobs M. Rogers, William Newbury, and Joseph Prentiss in '38. Already they had staked out a large number of lots, and were sure they would have the beginning of a village which should compare favorably with any among the marshes.

Settlers at Delavan, Elkhorn, and Troy.—At Delavan, there settled in '36, Col. Henry Phoenix and family; in '37, Milo Kelsey and family; in '38, Israel Stowell and family, and in '39, Joseph Griggs. About this time, there was a grist mill built there and put into operation.

At Elkhorn were to be found Samuel Bradley, LeGrand Rockwell, Hollis Latham, Sheldon Walling, and Edward Elderman, Esq. This was then the county seat, it having been, the fall before, left to the people to choose between Elkhorn, Delavan, Spring Prairie, and Geneva. Elkhorn received a vote of thirty-five majority over all the other places.

At Troy, were Gaylord Graves, Jesse Meacham, Adolphus Spoor, and Othner Beardsley, settlers of '36: Jacob Burgett, Cyrus Jenkins, and Gorham Bunker, of '38, and Augustus Smith and Henry Odell of '39. Sewall Smith had also made his purchase there, but did not settle until the following year.

Such was Whitewater, and such were the adjoining settlements, when the handful of pioneers gathered here resolved that there should be a village of Whitewater.

Rev. Daniel Smith.—About this time, W. B. Johnson and Justus Carpenter engaged the Rev. Daniel Smith—then a missionary of the Old School Presbyterian Church—to preach here one-third of the time. He held his meetings in the fall and winter, at the houses of Carpenter, Johnson, or Cravath, as Providence seemed

to direct. To meet his engagements he was frequently obliged to travel from Milton on foot.

The First Law Case.—During the latter part of October, the first suit was tried in which counselors were employed by the parties. The summons in the case was issued June 15th, 1839, and was William Birge vs. W. B. Johnson,—Warner Earle was for the plaintiff and Prosper Cravath for the defendant. Cravath, at that time, made no pretensions to legal knowledge, that being the first suit in which he engaged as attorney. Earle was a young man, and this was the first of his practice. Neither produced a great amount of authority, their only book of reference being a copy of the Statutes of the Territory, and an old first edition of Cowen's Treatise. The action was in assumpsis for work and labor, and various articles of produce, all of which the defendant denied and claimed a set-off. Each filed a bill of items. The plaintiff in closing his testimony, had failed to prove all its items. The defendant then produced his account book and made oath to the facts as required by law, and then read the items charged. After the defendant closed, the plaintiff wished to read the credits, to which the defendant objected. Cravath contended that the defendant had only sworn to the correctness of the charges, not the credits; that the plaintiff had once closed his testimony and could not introduce any more; that as the statute read the book should be evidence of such charges, and if there were credits in the book there was no evidence that they were correct. Earle contended that the book was then a witness and anything in the book relating to the case he had a right to have as testimony; that it was not his testimony but his defendant's. After the argument, the court sustained the objection.

Squire Mead says, in regard to his early judicial acts, "My decisions seemed very satisfactory to the winner, and no appeal was taken by the loser for a number of years. There might have been some ruling that the lawyers of the present day would take exceptions to; yet I think, on the whole, that justice was about as evenly dealt out then as now."

Soon after the mill was in operation, Emanuel Cawker moved into the log house and took charge of the mill. Flour then sold at $3 per hundred, wheat $1 per bushel, corn 50 cents, buckwheat flour $2 per hundred at the mill.

Prairie Fires.—The season of the year was now fast approaching when the prairie fires, which annually visited these regions were to be expected, and woe to the settler who had failed to prepare for their approach, or had neglected to defend his property against their depredation. The means of defense usually employed consisted in plowing fifteen or twenty furrows around the houses, fences, and stacks, and then, when the fire was seen approaching, to kindle counter fires to meet the advancing foe. If it came before these precautions were taken, then was the time to try men's nerves, for fighting fire is no child's play. The fires have been often and vividly described but all language fails to convey any adequate conception of their lurid beauty and wild and fearful grandeur.

First, as the herald of their approach, a warm ruddy glow, like morn's first rosy flush, spread over earth and sky; then a dim glare, succeeded by a dim red line of light just visible on the horizon, gradually widening into one broad unbroken wall of flame, ever advancing and contracting. But even as it drew nearer the wall was broken, becoming a tumultuous, heaving mass of fire, ever rolling on and on, like the storm lashed billows of some fiery sea; then a sound as the rushing of some mighty wind filled the air, as higher and higher toward the heaven the mad waves dashed in their wild fury. Above this raging, seething mass, hung a dark cloud of mingled smoke and flame, casting upon all objects a lurid and ghastly light. But when the fiery tide came nearer still, until the beholder felt its hot breath upon his cheek, a dense cloud of smoke, as a thick mantle of darkness, enveloped him, shutting out from view all surrounding objects; solitary and alone, in a darkened world, he seemed to stand, the only sound the roaring and crashing of the flames. But soon it was gone, in its onward march sweeping through forests and over plains, sending its forked tongues high

over the treetops and ever, as some fell spirit, the dark cloud of smoke stood above, unfurling its inky folds and hiding from view heaven's pure blue; but words are tame, for though memory may faithfully daguerreotype the scene, the pen is powerless to describe its terrific yet fascinating beauty, its wildness and its grandeur.

Deer Hunting.—During the winter of '39 and '40, the settlers varied the monotony of their daily business routine, by occasional hunting parties in search of the wild deer, of which numbers were to be found among the woods and openings. A new plan was adopted in their mode of hunting; instead of adhering to the time-honored custom of their fathers, by trudging off on foot, with shouldered gun, they introduced the very unromantic innovation of horses and a sled. Two or three "good shots," provided with a driver, would set out on a hunting expedition. The first track espied, they followed until it led them in sight of the herd, and being concealed by the sled-box, they were able to drive within a very short distance of their game, and frequently by this fraudulent device and practice they were enabled to capture from five to eight out of a single drove. For several years, did they continue in this underhand and piratical manner, to slaughter these denizens of the forest; like the frogs in the fable, what was sport to the hunters was death to them. Deer, together with grouse, ducks, and wild geese, comprised the kinds of game suitable for food; quails and rabbits were then unknown. Fishes were then abundant in all our streams, and in the spring the securing of the finny tribe was a favorite pastime. Spears and seine were in great demand, and sometimes even the formality of hook and line was dispensed with, a club serving as an instrument of death to any unwary fish which might venture above the surface of the water.

THE YEAR 1840.

Deacon Prosper Cravath and the Cortland Colony.—As navigation opened for the year 1840, emigrants began to arrive; about the middle of May, Deacon Prosper Cravath, Levi Kinney, Giles Kinney, Deacon Zerah Hull, James Hull, and Ara Hardy came, all accompanied

by their respective families; there were also among the company, Oliver and George Salisbury, B. B. Freeman and family, A. Freeman, and George Brown; all these settled in Lima. Cravath, having the fall before bought out Azor Kinney, took immediate possession, Kinney having previously built a frame house on the south-west quarter of section eighteen, this being the first frame dwelling house in the town. Dean Williams was boss carpenter. At this time, Calvin and Alanson Pike arrived and entered some land in Cold Spring; James Bliss, Richard Chesebro, and Champion Kinney, with their families, also settled in Cold Spring. The above were all from Cortland County in the State of New York. Soon after, Asaph Pratt, father of Norman and Freeman Pratt, arrived with his family; he built on section eight a log house, which is still standing. Capt. Asad Williams and family also came and settled on the *farm where they now reside. Corydon and Morris Pratt, who came at this time, also settled in Lima.

The Powerses were employed in building a tavern upon block one, lot one, and S. S. Workman and William Birge had each a dwelling in progress of erection, one upon lot four, block two, the other upon the north half of section four, north of lot five, block four.

Founding of the Congregational Church.—On the 3d of July, the Congregational Church was founded by Rev. Daniel Smith. The meeting convened for the purpose was held at the house of Deacon Cravath in Lima. The church numbered fifteen members, five males, Deacon Cravath, Deacon Hull, Justus Carpenter, Levi Kinney and James Hull. It was called "The Presbyterian Church of Whitewater," being first established under a presbyterian form of government.

Opening of the First Hotel.—At this time, Birge and Workman had their dwellings so far completed that they moved into them; they were frame buildings built by Charles Robinson, and are both still in being. Workman used a part of his as a cabinet shop. The Powerses had their hotel so far finished as to admit of its being occupied; there were no pleasure-seekers then, but nightly did some weary home-seeker find rest and

*Where Frank Williams, his grandson, now (1906) resides.

REV. DANIEL SMITH

shelter beneath its roof. The building was eighteen by thirty-six, and was the same as that afterwards used by Joel Clapp as a livery stable. Powers says: "Many thought at the time that we built too large for many years to come, but luckily it did not prove so; we were compelled into keeping people before the doors were hung." As we look at the large commodious *hotel now ('58) being erected by Mr. Wintermute, and compare it with the 18x36 building which formerly occupied its place, it tells of the changes eighteen years have wrought, and of the uncertainty of prophesies of man. The final completion of the house was celebrated by a grand opening. The dancing hall, which was the whole size of the upper story, was opened to all lovers of the dance; people came from the Fort, Delavan, Elkhorn, and Troy to participate in the festivities of the occasion. There were, of the dancers, about thirty couple, and these together with quite a number of outsiders and lookers-on, formed quite a respectable company, numerically considered, even. Music, dancing, sociability, and fun were the order of the evening.

Indian Alarms.—Although, years before, the general government had purchased of the Indians their title to the land, still they lingered, loth to leave their ancient hunting grounds, their home and the burial place of their fathers. Their presence was a source of mortal terror to many of the settlers, who feared lest they might commit some depredations upon life or property, although they actually never did injury to any one, unless it might be to sell them ponies and steal them afterwards, and a few such harmless eccentricities in which they occasionally indulged. Some of the pioneer women, still residents of our village, can, however, tell thrilling tales of horrible fright and startling adventures in which they barely escaped the scalping knife and tomahawk. The government moved slowly in the matter. Gov. Dodge organized the militia of the state. Benoni Finch, of Koshkonong, was appointed colonel, who had the good sense to select his staff from Whitewater. Thus early did Whitewater vindicate her mili-

*The old Montour House, on the site now occupied by Leffingwell's livery barn.

tary spirit, furnishing to the state brave and efficient officers. One of those early settlers, ranking as colonel, in writing of the time, says: "Such an array of patriotic officials, eager to serve their country, was enough to frighten the Indians and make them 'pukka jee.' But unfortunately for the patriots, the government sent General Atkinson and he peaceably removed the natives."

Establishment of the Postoffice.—No sooner did the settlers gain one additional advantage than they bent their energies to the attainment of some new object; having now a mill, blacksmith shop, store and hotel, they next required and petitioned for a postoffice; for until this time they had gone to Milwaukee for their mail, and a New York paper was usually received from eight to ten weeks after its publication. About the 1st of April, the Whitewater postoffice was established and D. J. Powers received his commission as postmaster. A weekly mail was established between Troy and this village. Mr. Powers says: "For the purpose of executing the papers, I walked to Troy, some twenty miles, on an April morning, staid three hours to transact business, and then walked home again before dark, and furthermore carried the first regular mail in my coat pocket." About the middle of May, the inhabitants began to receive their mail matter at Whitewater postoffice.

Formation of the Town of Whitewater.—There being at the time a special session of the legislature, Squire Mead circulated a petition to have the Town of Elkhorn divided, and asking that the portion now comprised in the Towns of Whitewater and Richmond should now be formed into a new town to be called Whitewater. The name was derived from that of the creek, which was so called by the surveyors who divided the county into townships. This petition was granted by the legislature.

The First School House.—The next thing to be accomplished for the advancement of the village was the erection of a school house. There being no moneyed men, they wisely concluded to dispense with the levying of a tax, but by voluntary labor and donation of

materials a house was soon completed, which, if not large and beautiful, yet sufficed for all the purposes intended to be answered in its erection. It was built of logs. Its dimensions were sixteen feet by eighteen, and it stood in the south-east corner of the north half of section five near the place occupied by the present residence of Mrs. Trippe. It not only served for a school room, but here the devout and pious of the community were wont to meet and worship.

Muster of the Militia.—During the summer, Col. Elderkin called together the militia of the Town of Elkhorn. They were commanded, under the pains and penalties of the law, to be and appear at the house of George Esterly, in said town, armed and equipped as the law directs. They did appear, but not knowing what the law directed there was every imaginable kind of equipment. The colonel attempted to form them into line. His soldiers refusing to obey orders, he called upon his aid, Warner Earle. He meeting with no better success, called in Capt. True Rand. Luckily, Esterly appeared at this juncture, announcing that dinner was ready. At the word, all marched with quick and ready step to the bountiful repast which he had prepared, and without even awaiting the word of command, commenced evolutions which they better understood. After dinner, Thomas Newton, a settler of '37 and a resident of the Town of Whitewater, was chosen captain. Soon after this they were dismissed, this being the first and last military parade.

Benjamin Whitcomb died on the 13th of August. His funeral was held at the hall of the hotel, Rev. Daniel Smith officiating upon the occasion.

New-comers of 1840.—In August, Matthew Hicks, Captain Jesse Pease, and Gerard Cutler, carpenter by trade, purchased lots. Thomas Van Horn had also located on the east half of the north-east quarter of section four, and had built part of the dwelling which George Dann now occupies. Harvey Seymour entered some land on section two and commenced building. Maj. Phillips, Thomas H. Webb, and Bradley P. Plato settled in Lima, Asad Curtice in Cold Spring, and John Hackett and Edmund Dawes in Whitewater.

In September, Henry J. Starin arrived with his family, and immediately commenced improving his present beautiful location on the north-east quarter of section four. Jacob J. Starin (one of the firm of Starin, Cook & Co.), then but a lad, came with him.

Frederick J. Starin, having purchased in this vicinity at the land sale, came here to view his premises; and while here, in the month of October, surveyed the lots between Whitewater and Main Streets; also lots on the east side of the creek (marked block four on Card's map), at the same time making a plat, which was the first of the village proper.

In October, the Powerses sold their tavern stand to Freeman L. Pratt. Joseph Powers had already erected the present building on lots six and seven of block seven. David J. Powers soon built a small dwelling on lots four and five of block six. About this time, I. U. Wheeler, Esq., and family, and his sons, Egbert and William, with their families, arrived at the village. Egbert and William soon built a blacksmith shop on lot two of block two. The same is now the Empire saloon. Patrick McLaughlin also opened a tailor shop in Birge's chamber. At the same time, Joseph and Benjamin Stanton came and purchased the store of Bosworth. Their first charge was made Dec. 22, 1840. In the same month, Dr. Trippe and family moved into the log house. On the 18th day of November, Julius Birge was born, he being the first white child born in the Town of Whitewater. The last of the month, Abram Brink had in operation his saw-mill at Cold Spring.

Winter, as it came once more, found all in readiness for its approach. An abundant harvest had furnished plenty of provisions, the cellars were filled with the treasures of the garden, and in place of fruit they had gathered in plentiful stores of the hazel and hickory nuts. Flour then sold at the mill for $1.50 per hundred, buckwheat flour the same, bran 9 cents per bushel, winter wheat 50 cents per bushel, spring 38 cents, oats 25 cents. Dried apples could be had at $2.50 per bushel, peaches and cranberries at $2, butter at 18 cents per pound, tallow 16 cents, pork $4 per hundred. Wood brought from 75 cents to $1 per cord. Board could be procured in the village at $1.50 a week.

The county was now preparing to build a court house, and the tax of the town for the year was $362.87, of which sum $72.47 was for school purposes. Eight dollars and thirty-eight cents of it was paid by non-residents. There were twenty-six residents assessed. The total value of the assessment for the town was $57,975, the portion included in the corporation was valued at $5,012, the south half of section four at $3,540, and paid a tax of $22.19.

The Milwaukee Weekly Sentinel.—The literary tastes and desire for foreign news of the settlers were now gratified, to some extent, by the weekly reception of the Milwaukee Sentinel, of which a copy was taken by almost every family. Those who come here in this day of railroads and telegraphs can scarcely realize with what eagerness this single weekly messenger, bringing to them tidings of the world without, was seized upon and perused by those who came in more primitive times, when a newspaper was a treasure and the coming of the mail an event of the greatest moment. To it, were they indebted for many a pleasant hour, and much enjoyment did they find in the perusal of its pages, for it somehow seemed to form a bond of union between them and the homes and scenes which they had left; they did not feel so wholly barbarous, so entirely shut out from the world of civilization.

Opening of the First School.—"Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined," was a cardinal article in the belief of the pioneer fathers and mothers. The education of the youth ever held a prominent place in all their plans and designs, they believing it to constitute an important element in the formation of character. The north half of the Town of Whitewater had already been organized into a school district, and the settlers having now a comfortable and convenient school room, employed Sheldon C. Powers, of Troy, as teacher, and by the 1st of December, 1840, the first school in the town was in successful operation, where the young ideas were trained and taught the first steps in their march scienceward.

A Dancing School.—For the further improvement of the youth, and that by the cultivation of fine arts

coarseness and vulgarity might be prevented from gaining a foothold in society, a subscription was circulated, which read nearly as follows: "We, the undersigned, believing in the cultivation of the more refined feelings and graces of our nature, and that a well-conducted dancing school will promote refinement in society and at the same time afford innocent amusement for the young, do agree to pay the sums set opposite our respective names toward defraying the expenses of a dancing school, to be held at the house of Freeman L. Pratt, in the Village of Whitewater, the school to be conducted according to strictest rules of propriety." A sufficient amount was soon raised, and the Murrays, of Beloit, gentlemen of cultivated tastes and good morals, were engaged as teachers. Each school passed off pleasantly and satisfactorily to all; the Pratts furnished refreshments gotten up as they well knew how, in style most grateful to the palate. Although the school was founded on strictly temperance principles, yet some of the young men found occasion, under cover of various pretexts, for calling at the store of the Stantons, upon whose books, during the winter, are to be found charges against divers young men, "eggs, liquor, and cigars, 13 cents," a moderate charge certainly, which shows how modest they were in those days in their aspirations, and how little was required for them to be jolly on. The school, however, was allowed in no way to interfere with their daily labors, for never was there a more industrious set of men, or more hard work performed, than by the settlers during the winters of '40 and '41.

Stealing of Timber in Bark Woods.—Snow fell about the 15th of November, and by the 25th, Bark River was frozen over so as to admit of the crossing of teams. This was the signal for a general rush to the woods, and was followed by a series of depredations upon the property of "Uncle Sam," unequalled in the annals of our town; for never, either before or since, has there been such immense quantities of timber taken from government land. All were engaged in this species of theft, for those who could not consistently with their conscientious scruples take the lumber themselves stole by proxy, hiring some one less scrupulous to do it for

them. Loads of saw-logs were cut and drawn either to Bark River or Brink's Mills, at Cold Spring, or to Whitewater. Each took whatever he wished, hewing-timber, rails, saw-logs, or rafters as the case might be, without hesitancy and in unstinted measure. There were at work each day from one hundred and fifty to two hundred men, and from seventy-five to one hundred teams; they came from Rock and Heart Prairies. With the rising sun, men and teams were astir in the woods, and now "Loud sounds the axe, redoubling stroke on stroke, on all sides round the forest hurls her oaks headlong." Many huts were built and nightly occupied by their holders who, when the labors of the day were ended, would kindle a blazing fire in front and prepare by it their evening meal, living for the time like backwoodsmen. This was their principal business until the middle of March, when the snow disappeared and their lumbering for the year was finished.

Hunting.—Occasionally they would snatch a day from their more arduous duties to devote to the chase, and great havoc did they make during the winter among the deer and other game. Chief among the hunters, both for skill and success, were Squire Wheeler and his son, Egbert, Capt. Thomas Newton and Capt. John Teetshorn. Levi Kinney made some not wholly unwarranted pretentions, though obliged to yield the palm to these more successful rivals. There were many others who fain would have established their reputation as mighty hunters, and would sally forth confident of success, but when the time came to fire, when a calm and steady hand was needed, they were suddenly seized with the "buck fever," a disease peculiar to hunters, whose most alarming symptoms was a violent trembling of every muscle, a sudden quaking which prompted them to fire at random, sending the ball harmlessly through the air.

THE YEAR 1841.

A Ball and Its Consequences.—The time having come for drawing the dancing school to a close, it was determined to give a grand ball as the crowning glory of the enterprise. The scholars and others invited duly assembled. The Murrays were there with inspiring

music, while the Pratts on their part had everything prepared in ample quantity and good style. Mirth and glee led on the winged hours, "and all went merry as a marriage bell," when suddenly the tide of mirth was stayed, as a venturous youth, impelled by a mischief-loving spirit, dared then and there, with encircling arm to press upon the lips of a fair young lady present an unmistakable kiss. Many deemed it a presumptuous act; but one of the company, much advanced in years, a gentleman of olden times, possessed of that nice sense of propriety and fitness, the chivalric courtesy that characterized the old school politeness, felt thoroughly disgusted with the performance, considering it an insult to the house and in direct violation of the rules of the school. Acting from the impulse of the moment, he ordered the young man to leave the room. His orders being disregarded, he seized the youth by the collar, and, a few coming to his assistance, quietly led him from the room.

The Resulting Law Suit.—This little episode could but mar the enjoyment of the evening, but rather unfortunately it was followed by still more disastrous consequences; for though of so trifling a nature, it created quite a stir in the community, and gave rise to some hard feeling. The young man, considering this summary expulsion from a ball room as somewhat insulting to his dignity, entered a complaint before Squire Childs, of Richmond, against the movers in his expulsion, for assault and battery. The complaint was drawn by Prosper Cravath, of Lima, Earle refusing to take part on either side. The alleged assailants being arrested and brought before the justice, asked time to procure counsel, which was granted. They immediately started for Judge Noggle, but the complainant, anticipating their design, beat them in the race and employed him first. They finally procured the services of Hon. James H. Knowlton. Immediately upon the arrival of the parties at Childs', the jury was summoned and sworn and the trial commenced. The decision of the court did not suit Knowlton, and the defendants, at his suggestion, removed the case to another justice, Squire Thomas, of Delavan. The jury proceeded thith-

er with their papers, but after the case was called and the jury seated, Knowlton asked that another jury might be selected, contending that the present one could not sit in the case; that when a case was removed, their power as jurors ceased. Noggle and Cravath asserted that the law required that on the removal of a case the papers and all pertaining to the case should be sent to the nearest justice; that the jurors, being once sworn, became part of it, and were bound to go wherever the suit went. This seeming logical, the court overruled the request of Knowlton. After the testimony was closed, Cravath contended that the defendants were keepers of a public house, open for balls, parties, etc.; they had no right to expel a person only for gross, indecent, or abusive conduct, and not as proprietors from a ball, in any case, as this right belonged to the managers only. On the other hand, Knowlton contended that they were not keepers of a public house, for although it was open for travelers, balls and parties, yet having no sign, it was not public; that this was not a public dance, but part and parcel of the dancing school; that part of the agreement in that was "that it should be conducted according to the strictest rules of propriety," and that kissing a lady in a ball-room was considered outrageous and against all rules of decency. Noggle in reply stated that the defendants were not the sole managers of the school or ball; that they had not the sole right to determine concerning the propriety or impropriety of any act; that if it was an improper act they were not proper judges; and further submitted that there was no impropriety in the act itself; that kissing was the first thing taught us by our mothers—that it was practiced in savage, barbarous, and civilized lands, in all ages and climes—that each juror had kissed and been kissed—that it was not forbidden either by the civil or moral law. After this powerful appeal, the jury immediately returned a verdict of guilty, thus judicially deciding the legality of a kiss, a point which from that time has remained unquestioned, this decision having long since become incorporated into the common law of this vicinity.

Death of Deacon Cravath.—On the 22d day of April, 1841, at his residence in the town of Lima, died Deacon Prosper Cravath,—an honest man,—and was buried where now stands the Episcopal Church.

Early in the spring the Bradleys settled in the town of Palmyra.

About the 1st of May, Wm. Wood had a brick-yard in operation, on what is now Dann's Addition. He made the first brick in the town, burning about forty thousand in the first kiln. Until within two years, brick has been yearly made in that same yard.

The Wheelers then manufactured at their shop cast steel plows, which were an improvement on the cast or strap plough and a great convenience to the farmers around, as well as a source of profit to the makers. They were sold at $12 apiece.

By May, the Stantons had erected a frame store, eighteen feet by twenty-nine, on lot two, block one. It now forms the front of Herbst's clothing store. At the same time, Matthew Hicks had the house owned by Sweetland, on lot one of block six, ready to occupy.

A Temperance Society.—Though all the inhabitants were strictly temperate, yet that this fact might be made apparent to all newcomers, a meeting was held for the organization of a teetotal temperance society. Dr. McNash, of Geneva, addressed the audience, producing a powerful effect. A great majority signed, but like those of a later date who sign pledges, each did it for his neighbor's good rather than for his own, as would seem from the circumstance that the account books show the same amount of liquor sold afterward as before. Such charges as these were occasionally met with: "Two quarts killall, rhubarb, six cts., cloves six cents." A mixture of these, moderately partaken of, was a preventative of the ague. No liquor was drank except as a medicine, and the presumption is that it was recommended by their physician, Dr. Clarke, and that he first tasted of the liquor to see if it was properly prepared.

For the terror of all evil-doers who might come, the Governor appointed Squire Wheeler Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Walworth, to reside in

the town of Whitewater, thus furnishing the settlers with ample means for enforcing obedience to the law.

In June, the Rev. Daniel Smith's engagement with the Congregational Society having expired, they secured the services of Rev. Seth Smalley. During the summer, the meetings were held in the log school house; in the fall and winter, in the chamber of Workman's house.

New-comers in 1841.—The 1st of September, Thomas K. LeBaron came from Boston with a stock of goods. He bought the store of the Stantons and the few goods they had left and by the 15th of the month commenced selling.

Philander Peck came during the summer and contracted with David J. Powers to build him a store twenty-eight feet by eighteen, on lot three block one. *This now forms part of the store occupied by Starin, Cook & Co. On the 1st day of November, he commenced business and having plenty of means, accommodated the settlers with long credits, which to many was a great advantage.

About the same time, Levi Powers arrived with a stock of goods and opened for business in the log store. Job D. Bonnell, a tailor, Orville Cooley, Charles E. Curtice, Robert Earle, and Pliny Muzzy came in the spring. During the fall, Squire Wheeler completed his pleasant residence on lot five of block seven, Dr. Clark, his on lot one of block three, Charles Robinson the house on lot one of block four, David J. Powers the dwelling now owned by William DeWolf, on lots four and five, block six. Henry J. Starin had finished his present residence, Samuel Prince had erected a building on lot one of block four, east side of the creek, and Warner Earle a dwelling on the center of lot four, block eight, where the postoffice is.

During the session of the legislature of '40 and '41, the town of Richmond was set off from Whitewater, the present boundaries of the town being established.

Late in the fall, the Rev. R. Cadle, an Episcopal clergyman, came; he sold his services on the Sabbath in

*The site now occupied by Johnson's saloon, corner of Main and North First Streets.

PHILANDER PECK

the log school house. Jarvis K. Pike and family also came.

During the fall and winter of '41, Joseph Powers built a shop on the flats east of the grist mill, which he used as a gun shop, repairing watches as well as all other kinds of machinery which did not properly belong to the province of the blacksmith. He was intending eventually to establish a machine shop should there prove to be a sufficient quantity of water.

In the spring, P. H. Brady commenced as clerk in the store of Philander Peck. A few improvements began to be made upon the east side of the creek. Thomas H. Webb having moved into the village, built on what is now lot seventeen, block one, Trippe's second addition, and went into the shop with Taft, they having the previous summer built a frame shop on lot one, Wm. Birge's addition. Taft also erected a house on lots eight and nine, block four.

Gerard Cutler in the winter of '41 had completed his dwelling on the west side of Franklin street, corner of Main and Franklin streets; his lot contained one and a half acres of land for which he paid Birge $20. It is now owned by Jacob J. Starin.

During the summer, many new-comers had settled in Lima, Richmond, LaGrange and Cold Spring, and many are the farmers in these towns who date from '41.

During the fall, Corydon Pratt opened a shoemaker's shop in the house of Matthew Hicks.

In the fall and winter, flour sold for $2.00 per hundred; buckwheat flour the same; bran 8 cts. a bushel; winter wheat 62 cts.; hay $2.00 per ton; wood 25 cts. a load.

About the 1st of October, Dr. Trippe had a saw-mill built and in operation, and the dwelling house now occupied by Orra Ostrander erected, on the east side of the creek.

THE YEAR 1842.

Until '42, there had been no separate organization of towns, each county being subject to a system of county government. In February of '41, the Legislature had passed an Act for the revision of the county system, authorizing the various counties to adopt, by

a majority of votes at the next election, the system of town government provided in said Act. Walworth county, having at the election of '41 voted in favor of the change, the Legislature of February, '42 passed an Act declaring that Walworth county among others, had adopted said Act of '41, and appointed the annual town meeting to be held upon the first Tuesday in April.

The First Town Meeting.—Accordingly, the first town meeting ever held in the town of Whitewater, was duly organized upon the first Tuesday of the succeeding April, by the election of I. U. Wheeler, Moderator, and Warner Earle, Clerk. They resolved as follows: that each officer for each day's service should receive $1, that there should be raised for the support of schools, $30, $10 for the benefit of paupers, $50 for defraying contingent expenses—the following persons were elected for town officers: James Trippe, Chairman of Board of Supervisors; Dr. Oliver C. Magoon, and William Birge, supervisors; Warner Earle town clerk; Asad Williams and Azor Kinney, assessors; Wm. H. Wheeler, collector; Zerah Mead, Oliver C. Magoon, and Calvin Pike, road commissioners; Dr. Joseph A. Clarke, Harrison Bishop and Oliver C. Magoon, school commissioners; I. U. Wheeler, treasurer; Leander Birge, Charles Robinson, and Wm. H. Wheeler, constables; Norman Pratt, Samuel Prince, and Thomas Van Horn, fence-viewers; and Sidney S. Workman, sealer of weights and measures. The officers elect paid, for the year, one fourth of the tax. The object in this, their first election, was to choose men for the various offices who would feel some interest in the future growth and prosperity of the town, believing that those who owned the greatest amount of property in a place would naturally be more interested in its advancement.

For more than five years, the $10 raised for paupers remained in the treasury unappropriated, a fact which speaks volumes for the general thrift and industry of the settlers. During the winter, the school was taught by Dr. Magoon. The sleighing was good, snow having fallen to the depth of from twelve to fifteen inches; the weather was mild during most of the season.

The Locating of Grove Cemetery.—Early in the spring of '42, Judge Pike, Asaph Pratt, and Asad Wil-

liams resolved themselves into a committee of three, to select a piece of land for a cemetery, it being evident that the place first decided upon would be too near the village. They first went to consult Dr. Trippe; he said to them, that if they did not consider the present location the best place for it, they could select a spot on any land he owned, but stipulated that they should locate it far enough from town so that it should be forever out of the way. After looking around and viewing every place near a highway, they fixed upon one acre of land in the north-east corner of Grove Cemetery. Having drawn a plot with the squares and lots as they now are, they invited all the men of the vicinity, on a certain day, to assist in clearing it of rubbish. At the appointed time, all were on the ground ready to work with a hearty good will. Under the direction of the committee they had by evening cleared the north half of every tree and shrub, not one was left for shade or ornament.

Opening of the Exchange Hotel.—Squire Parsons during the winter and spring was engaged in building the Whitewater Exchange on lot one, block two. In the spring Jedediah Brown, a lawyer, arrived and purchased an undivided half of Parsons' interest in the premises, pretending that he was soon to receive a large amount of money from Michigan. By the 1st of July, the building was completed, and was to be opened by Parsons & Brown. The "Fourth" was to witness this great event, and preparations were made for a celebration worthy the occasion. Invitations were sent far and near; Dr. McNash, of Geneva, was to deliver the oration. The house was to be opened on the total abstinence principle and ever to be a temperance house.

A 4th of July Celebration.—The day came and the people came from Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Milton, Beloit, Darien, Delavan, Elkhorn, and Troy. Whitewater was all astir, and Brown was all smiles and politeness. The company having duly assembled at the Exchange, and the line of march being formed, a promiscuous crowd of men, women, and children, they proceeded to the sound of the fife and drum, from the Ex-

change to Wm. Birge's 30x40 feet barn.* There they listened to the thrilling eloquence of the Doctor; for two long hours he protrayed the horror, sin, and abomination of slavery and intemperance, closing with a eulogy on the temperance house. After the oration, hungry, impatient, and weary, they marched at the beating of the drum, with quick steps toward the Exchange, where, on the opposite side of the street, a long table had been spread, bountifully laden with all the substantials and luxuries that could be desired. From fife and drum came stirring peals of music, while as an accompaniment, from the clouds above came peals, louder, more stirring, more exciting far, and as they were descending the rise of ground between Day's and Dewolf's, the rain came down in torrents. The line of march was broken, and the phalanx scattered like a routed and panic-stricken army, destitute of commander or leader. All their mirth and joy was quenched, and they found it in sad reality a cold water celebration —Each one sought shelter where best he could, and each one took supper wherever it was to be found. Every house was filled to overflowing. Thus fizzled the first grand celebration.

Nothing daunted by this misfortune, the next day the residents of the village and those of the immediate vicinity, without any great splurge, met at the Exchange, where they had a good time, good weather, and a good dinner, on the same table on the opposite side of the road. Everyone was happy and merry, and really seemed to enjoy the meeting. Each one was orator, speaker or listener, as inclination prompted, and all went home satisfied that it was the right kind of a celebration.

Much New Building.—In the summer, Frederick C. Patterson and A. O. Babcock went in company with Warner Earle; they had their office over LeBaron's store. Joseph Sanford and Solmous Wakeley also arrived. Wakeley bought the Bosworth's store and the lots where he now resides. Wm. B. Sherwood and John O. Storms came, the latter buying the house of Matthew Hicks. Freeman Pratt, by the 1st of September, had

*On North Street, where E. D. Coe's barn now stands. This barn was afterwards moved to a farm south of town.

completed a two story front to the house he bought of Powers, and it was then the Whitewater Hotel. Drs. Clark and Magoon formed a co-partnership, and built an office on lot three of block eight. Dr. Magoon bought three-quarters of an acre of Wm. Birge, and erected a house north of block four, where G. G. Williams now resides. Jesse Pease built the present dwelling on lot eight, block seven, and Corydon Pratt a shop on lot two block one, the same building now occupied by Thomas Bassett as a grocery store. Job Bonnell also built on lot two, block fourteen, and Seth M. Billings on lots five and six, block fifteen; he paid $15 for the lots, Egbert Wheeler put a house on lot three, block two and Wm. Wheeler on lot four, block three. Judge Pike built on lots three and four, block four; Dr. A. Powers on lots two and three, block ten.

Church Movements.—In the summer, the Baptist Church was organized by Elder Burgess and Elder Lake, in Birge's barn. Soon after, the church engaged Elder A. B. Winchell to preach for them one half the time; their meetings were usually held in the upper story of Judge Pike's house. Occasionally during the season, Elder Warner, a clergyman of the Methodist persuasion held service at the school house. In the spring, the Rev. Smalley entered a quarter section on thirty-three in Cold-Spring, and during the summer erected a house thereon. But he, becoming worldly and not being sufficiently pious, the Congregational church in July employed the Rev. F. H. Case, who was then filled with zeal in his Master's cause. In the fall, he bought out Smalley.

During the same fall, R. O'Connor came with a stock of goods; Earle had then sold his lot to Squire Wheeler, and O'Connor rented the building, moving it near its present location. It is now used as a saddler shop. About the same time Seth M. Caswell came.

F. C. Patterson, Esq., taught the school during the winter. For the profit and further advancement of the older members of the community, the Whitewater Debating Society was formed; a great number engaged in the debates.

Prices in 1842.—Spring wheat now sold for from 36 to 40 cts. per bushel; winter from 40 to 46 cts. Spring wheat flour was $2.50 per bbl., that from winter wheat $3 per bbl.; buckwheat flour brought $1.50 per hundred; corn 30 cts. per bushel; butter 16 cts. per pound; cheese 7 cts.; eggs 8 cts. per dozen. During this year, there were no large bills made with the merchants, and but a small proportion of the charges was against the female portion of their customers. During the months of May, June, and July, there were sold at the two principal stores only fifteen dresses, all calico, at prices varying from 18 to 20, 28, 31, 34, or 37 cts. per yard. There were also charged during the same three months, about fifty bonnets at three shillings a-piece, the trimmings amounting to from one to four shillings per bonnet.

Change in the Village Plat.—The new-comers must, of necessity, have some changes made in the plan of the village, and to carry into effect the alterations, which in their opinion would be a great improvement, a meeting was called at the Exchange. There, after wise consultation, each having the privilege of fully and freely expressing his opinion, a large majority decided in favor of having what is now block nine *laid out into lots and occupied with buildings. The Doctor informed then that as there was a majority in favor of the plan he would consent to the arrangement. Thus was the beauty and convenience of the original plan greatly marred, for all will now admit that if the commons had been left vacant, as first intended, and the splendid blocks now erected were fronting the open space, the business part of our village would be much more pleasant, beautiful, and convenient.

THE YEAR 1843.

A New Year's Ball.—The 1st of January, 1843, was celebrated by the observance of such festivities as are customary upon like occasions, a goodly number assembling at the Whitewater Hotel, for the double purpose of manifesting their joy at the advent of the new

*From the post-office corner to First St.

year, and of celebrating the completion of the addition to the hotel. Music and dancing were to be the order of the evening. About three o'clock in the afternoon, the company began to arrive, and at the good old-fashioned hour of seven, the violin sounded and the first set was in motion, Dr. Trippe and Mrs. Taft leading off. The merry hours flew by unheeded until the approaching dawn told them they were fairly launched into the new year and warned them to draw their festivities to a close.

From the 15th of November to the 10th of January, the sleighing was good; then the January thaw commenced; at the same time great quantites of rain fell, causing the waters of the creek to rise to such an extent that about one-third of the grist mill dam was swept away, and the flats were completely inundated.

This was the time for collecting taxes; the whole tax of the town for the first year of its organization, including the school tax, was $196.03; $106.03 of the same was for county purposes, and $12 of the sum raised for town purposes remained unexpended. Thus judiciously and economically did the first board manage the finances of the town.

During the thaw, Joseph Powers moved his building east of the mill to lot five, block six, fronting Fourth street, being the same building now owned by Spears and used as a blacksmith shop.

The Double Winter.—Soon after the thaw, snow began falling, continuing to do so every few days, until it was four or five feet deep. This remained on the ground until town meeting, the first Tuesday in April. In the mean time hay, oats, and corn became very scarce; these articles bringing whatever price a man's conscience would allow him to take. Dr. Trippe then sold bran and shorts at an advance of only 2 cents per bushel, a course which may seem incredible to millers now. Some of the farmers drove their cattle to the timber land, keeping them on browse. There was a total suspension of the lumbering business and deer hunting, the snow blockading every track. This was long known as "the hard winter."

First Revival Meeting.—The Baptist and Congregational ministers, together with a few of the faithful, fitted up the shop Powers had moved to lot five, and commenced a series of revival meetings, the first held in this vicinity. Many "came out," acknowledged their short-comings and ill-deserts, proclaiming at the same time that they had received full pardon for the same, and were bound henceforth and forever to forsake all sin and iniquity—the world, the flesh and the devil. The officiating clergymen were occasionally assisted by the Methodist brother.

Willard B. Johnson having at the land sale contracted with Leonard Gibbs, Esq., of New York city, to purchase his claim from him, and being unable to meet the payments, was compelled to leave the premises, losing all the improvements he had made and five years' labor.

At the same time, David J. Powers sold his lots in the village to his brother Joseph; that portion of his land in Lima which he had not previously disposed of to B. B. Freeman he sold to Stephen Burrows, and left to found the village of Palmyra. Mr. Powers and Johnson were both active in promoting the growth and well-being of our village. One peculiar feature in the early settlement of our town was that each settler seemed especially fitted for the place and work allotted to him. All were workers willing to exert their abilities and means to the utmost, but each of a different stamp with different modes of action, hence all labored to advantage harmoniously, each in his proper sphere and department.

It having been decided to build upon the commons, Wm. Birge proposed that a company should be formed to build a block the whole length of block nine, at the same time prophesying that he should live to see it one solid row of buildings.

Much New Building.—In the spring, O. A. Weed had a wagon shop completed on lot two, block three,* being the upright part of the dwelling now owned by Squire Hawes. The Congregationalists and Baptists rented the upper room for their place of meeting. In

*Next lot east of the Walworth Hotel.

the spring and summer, on the east side of the creek, Silas Walker built on lot five, John Woodbury on lots two and three and H. G. Kendal a blacksmith's shop on lot ten of block four. Wm. Hammond built a grocery store on lot two, block nine, where is now the hardware store of S. Smith & Co. Henry Printup built a harness and saddle shop where the post office stands, and Jedekiah R. Wood a house on lot four, block fifteen. W. B. Sherwood, a shoe-maker, built on lot seven, block fifteen, the house now occupied by Mr. Dake, and Albert Kendall on the north side of Main street, north of lot six, block four, now occupied by Dr. Graham. Wm. Miller also built a small house on the north-east corner of lot one, block eleven, owned at present by P. H. Brady, and John Evans one on lot seventeen, block fourteen, where Squire Pratt's dwelling now stands. Elder A. B. Winchell erected the brick house on lot fifteen, block fourteen,* and Warner Earle built a law office on the south-east corner of lot three, block one; the building is now used by Frost as a hat and cap store. Patrick McLaughlin had built a tailor shop on lot three, block nine, and Calvin Pike had in the spring completed a house on the north-west corner of Chapman & Ludington's addition.

In August, Sheldon C. Hall and Henry C. Leffingwell came with a stock of goods and opened in the grocery store built by Hammond, under the firm of Hall, Leffingwell & Co. They occupied Hammond's store until late in the fall, when they moved into the brick store on lot nine, block nine, at the corner of Main and First streets, now occupied by F. B. Hall as a grocery store. About the same time, Ephraim Conger and Hanford A. Conger arrived with their families; E. Conger buying of Dr. Magoon the east half of the south-west quarter of section three, and part of the west half of the same quarter.

In the summer, Parsons & Brown dissolved partnership, Parsons again becoming sole proprietor of the Exchange, which he soon after rented to Daniel Nieman. About the same time, Freeman L. Pratt rented the Whitewater Hotel to E. F. & S. Davis. There was then

*Opposite the Spiritualist Temple, corner of Center and Third Streets.

established between Milwaukee and Janesville a regular stage line, running through Whitewater, the inhabitants having by subscription made quite passable the highway across the marshes leading to Prairieville, (now Waukesha,) believing that in order to have a village thrive it was necessary to have good roads leading into it.

In the fall, the Pratt's had the grist mill now owned by Ansel Salisbury on section eight, in operation, and Pliny Muzzy, who is now running the mill, was engaged as miller.

Church Building. — The Congregationalists, on the 1st day of November, organized themselves into a society. The preamble to their constitution read as follows: "We, the undersigned inhabitants of Whitewater and vicinity, believing it our duty to co-operate with the First Presbyterian church here established in sustaining and perpetuating the gospel ordinances and institutions, adopt the following constitution."—There were twenty-six who signed their names to the constitution, eleven of these were not members of the society. They had already erected a meeting-house where the Brick Church now stands; it was 26x36 feet, and cost about $400. Dr. Trippe, in the consideration of the sum of $1, deeded to the society the lot on which the house stood, it being eight rods wide.

In the summer, the Methodists formed a society and class; there were five members of the class at the time of its organization. Talma Hamilton was chosen class-leader. The number during the year increased to eleven. Elder Gallups and Elder Wood each preached once in four weeks.

In the fall, James Eaton and James Brass, merchants, came to settle in the village; they built a store on lot six, block nine, where now stands the store of J. C. Partridge. Wm. Potts had also built a saw mill* on section twenty-seven. In the winter, Hanford A. Congar opened a select school, in the upper room of Weed's wagon shop. The debating society had again commenced its weekly meetings, and among the distin-

*Afterwards known as "Dutton's Mill."

guished persons who during the winter addressed the society, was Hon. Moses M. Strong. There was also a semi-weekly mail established, thus furnishing additional literary privileges. The wheat crops were the most bountiful and productive that have ever been known in the state. Nelson Salisbury had five acres that yielded over 53 bushels to the acre; Miles G. Cravath raised on ten acres of land belonging to Squire Wheeler over 440 bushels. Wheat in the fall sold for from 44 to 50 cents per bushel, flour from $2.75 to $3.25 per barrel, corn meal at the mill, for $1 per hundred, buckwheat at $1.50; butter at 16 cents per pound.

Among the new-comers, was Wm. A Harding, a merchant from New York city, who went into company with R. O'Connor, also Jerome Davis, J. P. Fenner* and family. The whole country around had now become settled with young, robust and industrious farmers, and being blessed with a bountiful harvest they began to seek a market for their grain at Milwaukee, and weekly almost every farmer made a trip to the city, or to some of the more northern and more recently commenced settlements, to dispose of their produce. Every one was satisfied with his harvest, and not a murmur was heard against the Ruler of the times and seasons.

THE YEAR 1844.

Growth and Population.—By the year 1844, the scattered hamlet, which a few years before could boast but some dozen inhabitants, who had been attracted to the spot by the beauty of the location and the promised fertility of the soil, had gradually increased in size and importance; business had sprung up and men of every trade and profession had flocked thither until it could fairly lay claim to the dignified and much coveted title of a village. Whitewater contained at this time six stores, one grocery, two hotels, three blacksmith shops, one tailor shop, two cabinet shops, one wagon shop, one gunsmith's and one saddle and harness shop and one cooper shop. It could also boast of one grist mill and

*Two daughters of Mr. Fenner taught a private school. One of these is still living at West Mystic, Conn.

one saw-mill, one law-office, and twenty-nine dwelling houses.

Upon its census list, were numbered one hundred and two male residents over twenty years of age, fifty-four of these having families and sixty-five of these being tax-payers. By these, nearly every branch of industry was represented, for of the one hundred and two, nine were merchants, one grocer, three hotel-keepers, six blacksmiths, two tailors, five carpenters and joiners, two cabinet makers, one wagon maker, one gunsmith and machinist, two harness makers, one mill owner, one cooper, five lawyers, three doctors, two students, two preachers, seven clerks, one mason, four shoemakers, two brick-makers, and eighteen farmers. Of this whole number, twenty-three now reside within the corporation limits, eight of the farmers live within three miles of the village, and nineteen "sleep that sleep which knows no waking." Fifteen of these have found a resting place within the quiet precincts of our own Grove cemetery. Of the women who braved the trials and privations of a new settlement and came to cheer and enliven the toil and life of the hardier sex, nineteen are now dead, and thirteen lie buried in the village burial ground. There were within six miles of the village, one hundred and eighty four families, ninety-four of which still reside within the same distance, and thirteen of them are residents of the village; eighteen of the men and fifteen of the women have since died; of these, six men and thirteen women have been laid in Grove cemetery. There are now living in the village and within six miles of it, one hundred and seventeen men who can contrast Whitewater as it was in '44 with it as it is in '58, who have watched its growth from its earliest beginning, and have sympathized alike in its reverses and prosperity.

Among the number of the dead, are many of the early pioneers, who were active and energetic in building for themselves a fortune, and interested in the growth and advancement of the village, and assisted much in its development, both by their counsels and their open-handed liberality, and who, by their presence, added much to the social circle. And now as the older residents visit our pleasant burial place and read

there the names of the dead of '44, and recollections of fourteen years ago, with its trials and perplexities, its friendly greetings and kindly words of cheer are brought vividly to mind, that olden time when all were linked in the bonds of a common brotherhood, when love and good feeling controlled the mind and hearts of all, seems as a pleasant dream, or as the far-off scenes of childhood. And then as the eye rests upon the clustering homes beneath, and the hum of busy life falls upon the ear, the scene before one seems more like a new creation than like the village of '44.

The Building of Highways Across the Lowlands.—They had already constructed very passable highways leading across the lowlands, toward the south, south east, north, and east. These were greatly improved during the year, but this was not accomplished without labor. Everyone seemed interested in the work, the new-comers with the rest; merchants, millers, hotel-keepers, mechanics, all subscribed liberally, while the farmers in the vicinity assisted by their labor. During the year, not a dollar was expended upon the streets of the village, but all the funds raised were appropriated to the building of these highways across the lowlands. People came from Milton, Johnstown, Richmond, Sugar Creek, Troy, Palmyra, Jefferson, and Sun Prairie, in Dane county, to do their trading. Our merchants had all the custom for a circuit of twelve miles, and at some points much beyond.—Such were the improvements, where seven years before there were to be found only the hut and path of the red man; these had disappeared making room for the highway, the stores, hotels, and shops of the white man.

Most of the settlers came with but slender means, and many of the young men were destitute of any resources save a clear head, a stout heart, and active hands; but most have now sufficient to provide for all the comforts of life, and many who were then young men just beginning in life are now worth their thousands; but they made it not at the fashionable saloon, drinking, smoking, and playing billiards, but behind the counter, in the shop, or in the office.

Early in the spring, the building of stores, shops, and dwellings again commenced. O'Connor & Harding built a store on lot five, block nine, and Eaton & Brass an addition to their store. Squire Brown built a law-office, with the rear for a dwelling, on lot eight, block nine. The same building is now occupied by Dr. Deichman as a drug store. John Woodbury erected a dwelling house on lots three and four, block four, and L. A. Winchester, who came in the spring, put up a blacksmith shop on lot three, block one, Trippe's addition.

The Rev. F. H. Case having become a farmer and somewhat entangled in worldly affairs, the Congregational society employed Rev. M. P. Kinney as their minister. He soon after bought lot thirteen of block fifteen, for which he paid $20, and during the summer erected the upright part of the building now on the lot. In the spring, the Rev. Mr. Cadle left, bearing with him the respect and esteem of all who knew him. Although he was fully established in the faith, and a firm believer in the doctrines of the church, yet he condemned no one for differences of belief but was friendly towards all.

Assessment.—In the spring of '44, there was assessed 9,980 acres of land to residents, including the village, and 3,560 acres to non-residents, leaving 10,300 acres yet government land. The total valuation of the town was $52,853. The land of residents out of the village was valued at $33,137, that of non-residents at $11,774, the village lots at $2,761, personal property $5,200. Merchandise was the only personal property taxed, improvements and buildings exempt from taxation. The whole amount of the tax for the year was $342.53. The tax on the Whitewater Hotel was 84 cents; that on John M. Clark's farm $17.62. The discovery that what a corporation or society have to pay, costs nothing, had not then been made.

Building of the "Little Brick" School-house.—The town had been divided into school districts. District No. 1 comprised the north third of the town, and at their meeting in the winter they had voted to build a new school house; the log one, having served its day,

ceased to answer for school purposes. In the summer, the present house, 24x28 feet, on lot five, block four, was built by Thomas Van Horn, for which the village paid him $240. The only point of difference among the voters was in regard to the selection of a lot. There was quite a number in favor of a lot west of the Congregational church, but the majority voted for that on which the house now stands,* thus establishing the precedent that low lots are the best locations for school houses. Long may the house stand as a monument of the energy, economy, and wisdom of the early settlers. The lot was donated by the doctor to the district, so long as it should be used as school purposes.

Joseph Rogers came in the summer and went into company with Winchester. The shop being in readiness, they commenced business under the firm name of Winchester & Rogers.

In the summer, Buckley came with a small stock of goods and groceries and built a store on lot one, block nine, where now stands the dry goods store of S. Smith & Co. Dr. Jones built a house in the northwest corner of section nine, where Lewis Bennett now resides; he immediately commenced practicing upon the old system. About the same time, Dr. Powers opened an office over Le Baron's store; he practiced upon the Thompsonian principle, which was then considered the only ark of safety by all opposers of mercury.

During the summer, George Phillips, a blacksmith, built a house now standing on lot seven, block four, on the east side of the creek. Jacob J. Starin commenced clerking for Philander Peck, and has remained in the building to the present day.

The Scale of Living.—The harvest of the year was bountiful, wheat averaging twenty-five bushels per acre. Produce sold nearly the same as in '43; all were able to add somewhat to their improvements and comforts. During each successive year, all increased, to some extent, their worldly stores, yet none indulged in any of the luxuries and superfluities of the present day. Though all were comfortably and tidily clad, yet none were clad in costly apparel, nor were any burdened

*Where the Birge fountain now stands.

with an extensive wardrobe, their morning, noon, and evening dress being the same. The old settlers, when they compare their family expenses of '44 with those of '57, will scarcely credit the record. As an example, the expense of a small and economical family, superintended by a frugal wife, (and all were such then), were less than $20 per month; those of the same family in '57, amounted to over $70 per month, even though the strictest economy, for the times, was practiced. Yet in spite of this contrast there was as much if not more happiness, enjoyment, good feeling, and contentment in '44 than in '57; all read the third verse of the third chapter of first Peter and the curse of a violation in the third chapter of Isaiah, and "governed themselves according"; perhaps necessity forced obedience.

Death of Dr. Trippe.—The blessings of the early and later rains had not been withheld, a bountiful harvest was added to their wealth, the beauty of the village had been enhanced by many new improvements. Yet over the sunlight of their prosperity and joy the shadow of a deep sorrow fell. Death came among them, bearing from their midst Dr. Trippe. The cherished friend of all, he died on the 4th of September, 1844. He was a man in all his business relations of the strictest integrity, original in all his plans and actions, independent in forming and firm in adhering to his opinions. Like all original thinkers, he was devoid of all sectarian feeling and ostentation. He was warmly attached to his friends, a sympathizer with distress, instructive and social in his intercourse with his friends, and delighting in the prosperity of all.

Before his death, he was anxious for the formation of some society, which should frequently call together the inhabitants of the village, the same to be useful, instructive, and free from everything sectarian, where man should meet his fellow simply as a man and not as the representative of some particular class or ism. His plan was nearly the same as that of the present "Library Association," and long may it exist upon its present liberal principles and prove to be one of the means in restoring all to a friendly and kind feeling, in doing away with that party spirit and those prejudices

which so hem in and contract the soul and so mar the harmony of a community.

THE YEAR 1845.

The winter of '44 and '45, like those which preceded it, was occupied for the most part, in hauling grain and pork to Milwaukee, or more northern markets. Those who were intending to build during the coming summer, improved their opportunity for getting their lumber from Milwaukee, as the time for using basswood and oak for siding was past.

New-comers and Business Changes.—Joseph Powers had already erected the building on lot three, block eight, and also a brick building on lot two, block six, for a gun shop. About the 1st of January, Jas. Worm rented this and opened a gun shop, Powers leaving to found the village of Hebron. Early in the spring, Brass & Eaton erected an ashery on the east side of the creek, on what is now Wm. Birge's addition. It was built of sufficient dimensions to admit of carrying on quite an extensive business, but the first year it was found to be an unprofitable investment and the building was taken down; but for two or three years the leaches remained, a standing proof that business men are liable to err in their calculations. In the spring Dr. Rice and George Dann and family came. The doctor bought Dr. Magoon's half of the office, and went in company with Dr. Clarke, and the firm became Clarke & Rice, a partnership which has continued to the present day. George Dann purchased the dwelling house of Dr. Magoon. The doctor himself, having become convinced that a physician's success depends more upon his chiming in with the whims and caprices of a community than upon his real knowledge and skill, moved on to his farm on sections two and ten, where he could better enjoy freedom and independence. George Dann also bought the north part of lot one, block eleven,* using the building for a cooper shop. Deacon Potts moved here from Geneva, and purchased the house and lot of Elder Winchell. The elder having left, the Baptist church employed Elder H. W. Reed, who had previously moved into the village.

*On Fourth Street, between the Baptist Church and Center Street.

Talk of a Methodist Seminary.—Elder Hurlbut was the minister in charge of the Methodist church. He used great exertions to have the school of the conference established at this place, but meeting with little encouragement from the citizens, his well-laid plans did not succeed; even then, the other sects were fearful that should the Methodists found a school here, it would retard somewhat their growth and influence. Thus did the petty spirit of rivalry render a failure the first attempt to establish a seminary here, which should not only be an ornament to our village, but a source of wealth and intelligence to the community.

In the summer, J. L. Pratt came with his family to settle in the village. He soon commenced working at wagons in the shop of Weed; though "Pratt's Wagons" were then unknown, as he made at first only the wood part.

Henry Keep of Fredonia, in the state of New York, came on and immediately went into company with Philander Peck, under the firm name of Peck & Keep. This firm still adhering to the practice of giving long credits, the other merchants were compelled to adopt the same policy, until this became such a universal and established custom that it was looked upon rather as a matter of right than as an accommodation to the customer. Since this system of long credits had come to form the basis of business, one with a small capital could hope for little success as a merchant. The merchants even now made frequent settlements by taking promissory notes at 12 per cent., payable one day after date, and a few years after, the interest paid annually to the merchants of the village amounted to more than $15,000.

In the summer Hans Arveson and Thomas Thompson settled on sections twenty-seven and thirty-four, they being the first of the Norwegians who settled in this vicinity, except Ole Tollefson, who came in '43. These were soon followed by quite an immigration from Norway.

During the summer, Mr. D. Smith built the upright part of the house on lots eighteen and nineteen, block fourteen; in the fall, S. C. Hall rented the same and

moved into it. Orville Cooley commenced the house on lot sixteen, block fifteen, and Ulysses Woodbury one on lot four, block fourteen, which he afterwards sold to Luther Cadman, a settler of '42; on the same lot Cadman has since built the "American House."*

Among the new-comers during the year, were Mr. Ament, and A. Sentenn, tailors, each of whom soon opened a shop; Nelson Coombs, a wagon-maker; Warren Cole, who soon engaged in the pottery business, and Madison and Geo. Roberts, who opened a grocery in the store built by Eaton & Brass, these latter gentlemen having closed up their business.

Eli King, one of the first settlers in the county, now moved into the village, taking possession of the house which he had previously bought of Judge Pike. F. Cole and C. Billings started a grocery in the store built by Buckley. In the fall H. C. Leffingwell bought the lot and office of Brown, and in November, Hon. E. Wakeley, a lawyer, and now one of the judges for the Territory of Nebraska, came and opened a law office in the building formerly owned by Squire Earle, which his father had purchased a short time before. Esquire Patterson, having become partial proprietor of the Exchange, started a livery stable in company with James Bartholf. This was the first institution of the kind in town. In December, Prosper Cravath moved from Lima into the village, in the same office occupied by Clark & Rice, where they remained together for more than nine years.

Thus ended the year '45, with no startling events to mark its course, yet bringing a gradual growth and improvement to the town, and general comfort and prosperity to its inhabitants.

THE YEAR 1846.

The elements seemed to conspire to render the first day of the new year as cheerless and uncomfortable as might be; yet in spite of this, a few social parties were given and a scanty band were gathered at the hotel, now kept by Warner Earle, to celebrate, with the orthodox New Year's ball, the advent of '46. But if there

*Site of the present Whitewater Hotel, on Whitewater Street.

was gaiety within, without the day was dark, gloomy, and dismal, and its influence penetrated even to cheerful firesides—perhaps Nature thus foretold the deeper gloom which was to shroud their hearts; for on the following day the usual quiet of our little town was disturbed by the occurrence of an event more tragical and more heart-rending in its sadness than any which had hitherto broken the tranquility of its life.

Suicide of Thos. K. Le Baron.—About eleven o'clock in the morning, the report of a pistol was heard; the sound was unusual, but little did the startled listeners deem that it was a voice bearing tidings of the death of one of their number. A little while after, the body of Thomas K. Le Baron, from which all life had fled, was found; he, who a few brief hours before had been among them, engaged in the active business of life, with a friendly greeting and a ready smile for all, now lay a lifeless corpse before them. But twenty-six, he had already grown weary of the world, and had sought with his own hand that death which came all too slowly for his impatient heart. He was possessed of keen and sensitive susceptibilities, a refined and cultivated intellect; a man of deep thought and strong devotional feelings, scrupulously conscientious even in the most trivial affairs, he was respected by all who knew him and sincerely loved by the favored few who were admitted upon terms of intimate acquaintanceship. In his Eastern home, he had been a member of the Unitarian church. He was of slender form and feeble constitution, and endowed with a vivid imagination and feelings of almost morbid sensitiveness. In a letter found among his papers, and directed to a friend, to be opened in case of his sudden death, he writes: "My fall has been owing, as it appears to me, to a curious state of mind that has been but partly alive to the influences that affect people usually—a clear, full conception of anything, I have not had for years. Upon landing in Wisconsin, so great was my desire to succeed in my business, to fulfill my obligations East, that my business seemed to warp my judgment, so much so, that it had become insensibly a monomania. The responsibilities attached to it had so long oppressed

me that when I arrived at more easy circumstances, I had lost that part which should have been first cultivated, there having been no religious denominations like that under whose influences I had been brought up. From these and other causes and influences that were thrown around me, I have become the wreck I am." Shortly before his death, in a conversation, he said: "I have heard the clergyman of each denomination, and each classes me and all belonging to the same church, among infidels and disbelievers of the Bible—and do they believe me the wretch they represent me to be?" But quietly now he rests on yonder hill. A marble monument marks his resting place, and there are some upon whose faith there rests no shade of doubt, but who as they visit the spot, are consoled by the firm belief, that although this body has returned to the earth as it was, "his spirit has returned to God who gave it."

New Buildings.—During the winter J. B. Hunt taught a select school in the building now occupied as a saddler's shop in block eight. At the approach of spring, business received a fresh impulse. Buildings sprung up on every side, and the hurry and bustle of life commenced once more. A. Sentenn built a house on lot one, block ten; John O. Storms and Loomis one on lot one, block six. Storms had now in operation a meat market, it being the first one established. Hall & Leffingwell built the brick store, used as a dry goods store by Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart, on lot seven, block nine. Wm. Richardson put up a dwelling house on lot one, block fourteen; Prosper Cravath one on lot five, block eleven; J. Sharp one on lot twelve, block fourteen, and Rev. Mr. Church, a tract agent, one on lot one, block eleven; Mr. Madison built a grocery store on lot four, block nine, where Birge's store now stands, and Nelson Coombs a dwelling-house on lot three, block five. The new-comers were W. Rice and Wm. Richardson, carpenters; E. H. Wilcox, a school teacher; L. C. Patch, a mason; Luther Clarke, a millwright; David Coneray, a carpenter and mason, and R. Gould, a shoemaker, who afterwards built on lot three, block six. In the fall, Sanger Marsh and John S. Partridge

came with a stock of goods and bought the store of Eaton & Brass. In August, A. H. Scoville came and settled at once at* Oak Lodge, fully determined to improve the same and become a model farmer; but after a short experience he concluded he had mistaken his calling, and in the fall bought the stock in the grocery of Cole & Billings and moved into the village.

Fever and Ague.—The fall of '46 has, in the annals of Whitewater and its vicinity, been stigmatized as the sickly season. The prevailing disease was the ague and fever; scarcely an individual in all the country around escaped its grasp. Many Norwegians had settled among the bluffs and the disease seemed to attack them with the greatest severity. Among these, were many new-comers, so that from two to four families occupied the same house. This often consisted of but one small room, and in this would be found from three to six, barely able to move, rendering it as heart-rending a scene as one can well imagine. In a single room, there were, at the same time, six lying around the sides of the room, unable to rise; all with a dish of water at their side and a rope extended from a joist overhead in which to rest their head when they drank, there being only two small girls, about seven and ten years old, able to render any assistance. In the village, few escaped the plague; some were unable to leave their beds, being prostrated by an almost constant fever, some with chattering teeth, sat shaking, vainly seeking by the aid of roaring fires to drive away the cold which penetrated to their very marrow; some were bundled up and out sunning themselves, anxiously watching their finger-nails, meanwhile, and others dragging themselves about with slow and tottering steps, seeking for friendly sympathy, while all had a yellow, haggard, and sorrowful look.

THE YEAR 1847.

The "Sand Speculation."—The winter of '46 and '47 passed off after the manner of winters generally, no event worthy of note transpiring, unless it might be the

*The Mike Ward farm, on the Fort Atkinson road.

"sand speculation," which for a time absorbed a great share of the public mind and attention. There was a regularly-organized company engaged in this novel species of traffic, which consisted in the sale of small boxes of sand for from $50 to $100 a box. Their mode of operation was after this manner: they would show their customers two or three half-dollar pieces fresh from the United States mint, pretending they were of their own manufacture, and that these would sell for about 25 cents a dollar. The customers, keeping these samples to try if they would pass without detection, and finding them accepted, were eager to make heavy purchases. After the bargain was completed, the supposed coin was delivered with all possible haste to avoid detection, and the buyer and seller immediately parted; but great was the astonishment of the purchaser, upon opening his box to find in place of shining half-dollars, which should answer all the purposes of genuine coin, only sand or bits of old iron. This company whose business was confined to the sale of sand, and gambling, had their headquarters at Whitewater, and for a time gave to the village the reputation of a hard place. The traffic still continuing, it became necessary to adopt some measures by which it might be stopped; accordingly it was determined upon to arrest one of the firm or a sympathizer with them. This was a signal for a general fight, in which the law-abiding party came off victorious, Chauncey Brown being the officer who with his posse succeeded in making the arrest. Out of this, there arose a succession of lawsuits in all of which law and order prevailed. This finally resulted in breaking up the clique, the firm being compelled to go into liquidation and bankruptcy, and its members to follow for the future some more legitimate branch of business.

During the winter, E. H. Wilcox taught a select school in the Congregational church, which then served the double purpose of meeting house and school room.

E. B. Leslie, Esq.,—now president of the Monticello bank—went into company with F. C. Patterson in the law business, occupying the office then attached to the Exchange. Squire Earle left our town and took up his residence in Cambridge.

R. O'Connor Inaugurates the Planting of Shrubbery.—At the approach of spring, R. O'Connor, having purchased lot four of block eleven, was seized with a desire for shrubbery. For the purpose of procuring this, he went in company with A. H. Scoville, who had bought lots west of the Congregational church where he now resides, and was animated by a like laudable desire, to Bark Woods, in search of ornamental shrubs and trees with which to beautify and adorn their premises. At early dawn, one bright spring morning, armed with spade and axe, they sallied forth with horses and wagons. In the evening, after a day of arduous toil, they returned, weary, but fully satisfied with their precious load, for of the great value of their leafy treasures they had no doubt; but great was their astonishment and disappointment at being informed on the following morning by a neighbor, that their load consisted of spotted alder, dog wood, wild cherry, basswood, sumac, and a few other like varieties. But O'Connor, nowise disheartened, made another effort with perfect success, and the beautiful shade trees which render so attractive the little place on lot four. tell with each succeeding summer, of his energy and perseverance. The maples there were the first planted in the village, except the large soft maples on the place of F. H. Starin set out by Henry J. Starin in '42, and those on lots two and three, block ten, set out by Dr. Powers in the spring of '46. O'Connor worked hard to awaken the same spirit of improvement in others; he began with block eleven, and in a few years by dint of much persuasion and considerable personal effort, he saw it what it has ever since been, the block of the village, tidy and pleasant in appearance, saying plainly to others, "Go thou and do likewise," and to-day Whitewater is greatly indebted to R. O'Connor for much of its beauty and attractiveness.

During the summer, Mr. O'Connor put up the building on lot four, block eleven, Nelson Coombs the one on lot three, now owned and occupied by Alexander Graham, Wm. Baker the wing to the house on lot two, and N. K. Eels, a new-comer, bought lot one, and enlarged the dwelling thereon. Wm. Birge built his present

dwelling on Chapman & Ludington's* addition, north of block seventeen; Job Bonnell built on the north part of lot one, block three, and Thomas H. Webb bought on lot two, block three, and by additions converted the wagon shop into a dwelling house.

At the end of the year, the valuation of all lots was $2,888, improvements on the same (there being 68 lots improved), $14,545, and the personal property $22,040, as appraised by the valuation of the assessors in the spring of '48. There was then in the village about one-third more personal property than all the land and buildings were worth, only $5,300 of it being merchandise; the remainder being money and credits due or to become due over and above the amount of debts owing, as the law then read, which would indicate that those early settlers preferred to have their means drawing 12 per cent. interest, to investing them in costly palaces, the assessment showing a solid basis among the business men of that day.

New-comers and Changes.—John M. Clark moved with his family on to the farm which he now occupies, about two miles west of this village, though such changes have since been wrought and such improvements made, that it would scarcely be recognized as the same place.

Among the new-comers, was George G. Williams and family. Williams bought the west half of section eight of Norman Pratt, the lot north of block four of George Dann, and half of the pottery of Warren Cole. The pottery business was then carried on by the firm of Cole & Williams. Geo. Dann bought out Van Horn, on the east side of the creek, engaging in both the cooper and brickmaking business. Among the other arrivals were J. B. Decker, a saddle and harness maker, who started business in the shop built by Mr. D. Smith, H. Livingstone, a tailor, who bought lot three, block eight, of Joseph Powers, and opened a shop, and R. S. McNeal, a wagon maker. †Albert Keep, who had been in the mercantile business at Catfish, came into the village and went in company with Peck & Keep. Soon

*Now known as the E. M. Johnson place, corner of Main and South Prairie Streets.

†Afterwards President of the Chicago & Northwestern Ry. for some years.

JOHN M. CLARK

after P. H. Brady went to the pineries in company with Daniel Smith. Winchester & Rogers had dissolved partnership, and each set up shop on his own responsibility.

During the fall, produce still maintained the old prices, wheat averaging about 50 cents per bushel, butter from 10 to 13 cents per pound, pork $3 per hundred, eggs 8 cents per dozen, chickens from 8 to 12 cents apiece.

The fall of '47 was warm and pleasant, though like that of '46 it was quite sickly, more especially in the village. During the month of December, but little fire was needed for comfort—no heavy rains, no snow, and but few days cold enough to freeze, until the 1st of January, '48, when snow fell to the depth of eighteen inches.

In December of '47 the Episcopal parish was organized, and they engaged the services of Rev. Mr. Hoyt. About this time Charles Brett came and went into the grocery business in the store now occupied by T. Bassett. During the winter, Prof. Wilcox still continued his select school.

THE YEAR 1848.

In the assessment of '48, the five lots in block eleven were assessed $135, block nine at $135, and block one at $220; at that time block eleven was equal in value to block nine, and the lots on the north side of Main street more than those on the south side.

There were many stumps within the limits of Main and Center streets, and early in the spring, O'Connor, still actuated by the spirit of improvement, by aid of a few dimes contributed by each resident on Center street, grubbed the stumps and ploughed two or three furrows on the north side of the street and cast up a sidewalk, this being the first depredation committed on any street in Whitewater by plough, shovel, or scraper.

Business Changes.—In the spring, A. H. Scoville went into the employ of Hall & Leffingwell as bookkeeper. Soon after Hall & Leffingwell dissolved partnership, and Rufus Cheney, an old settler of Milwaukee, went in company with Hall. Levi Powers took as

a partner Geo. B. Hall, an early settler of Lima; and Seth M. Caswell and Chas. E. Curtice formed a co-partnership and went into the grocery business in the store built by Hammond. Among the new-comers, were Dr. Brewer, who went in company with Dr. George Lee, who came in '47, Schenart, a saddler, who started a shop in the building on block eight, Seva Pratt, Edward Leigh, a blacksmith, and L. O. Dancy.

During the summer, S. C. Hall and Cheney built the brick building on lot eight, block nine, now occupied by Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart as a hardware store. A. H. Scoville put up the upright part of his present residence, and J. B. Decker the brick building on lot four, block ten. The great event of this year was the final completion of the telegraph line from Milwaukee to Madison which passed through Whitewater, an office being established at this place.

In the fall, the inhabitants were called upon to mourn the death of Capt. Jesse Pease, an early settler of the village. In the summer, J. L. Pratt, having purchased the southwest corner of lot two, block eight, and also the cabinet shop of John O. Storms, moved the shop on to the lot and removed to his present location,* here he did a flourishing business, and it was not long before such vehicles as "Pratt's Wagons" were known.

On the 28th of November, 1847 (1848?), a new Temperance Society was organized. Article fourth of the constitution read thus:

"Any person may become a member of this society by signing for that purpose the following pledge:

" 'We pledge ourselves that we will not use any alcoholic liquors as a beverage, and that we will exert our influence to discontinue their use as a drink in the community'."

The Rev. M. P. Kinney was chosen president, E. Wakeley, Esq., vice-president, and F. F. Fuller, secretary. There were 93 men and 74 women who signed this pledge. Of the men, only seven have openly and frequently violated their pledge, and of the youth that signed, all but two are temperate and respected citi-

*"Pratt's wagon shop" stood on the north-east corner of Center and Second Streets.

zens. Three of the men and six of the women are now numbered among the dead.

In the fall of '48, Halcyon Lodge, No. 15, of the Oriental Order of "I. O. O. F.," was organized in due and ancient form. For two or three years, the institution flourished, its members being monthly augmented by the accession of new members.

The Cemetery Association.—On the 20th of November, the Cemetery Association was formed; until this time the ground had been owned by the town of Whitewater, and was under the control of the Board of Supervisors, who never considered that it was a part of their duty to interest themselves in fencing and improving the spot which must soon be their final resting place. The first officers chosen were John Woodbury, president; Prosper Cravath, secretary; Leander Birge, treasurer; W. M. Potts and Rev. M. P. Kinney, directors. Among the most active in getting up the organization, was Leander Birge, who often spoke of the necessity of making some effort to fence and beautify the grounds where all must eventually lie, little anticipating that there he so soon must rest until the Resurrection morn.

THE YEAR 1849.

As spring approached, improvements began to be made, and buildings to spring up on every side. Wm. Potts built on his present residence on the south end of block five, Wilson's addition; S. C. Hall his on the north side of Main street and west side of section four; Horatio Morgan the dwelling west of the Episcopal parsonage; Francis Kinney that on lot eight, block twenty-two, Chapman & Ludington's addition.

Among the new-comers, were *Dr. Deichman and family; the Doctor bought lots four and five, block six, and also the building erected by Esq. Brown; this he moved on to lot four, and soon after erected a drug store, where he is still doing business. Septer Wintermute, who had come into the village the year before, bought the Whitewater Hotel and moved into it. This has recently, by putting on another story, and by aid of

*There is evidently some mistake here, there being other evidence that Dr. Deichman did not arrive until a year or two later.

other additions and alterations, been converted into the Montour House, making it the house of the village. S. Clark and W. P. Lusk, with their respective families came; these gentlemen went into company and opened a tin-shop and stove and hardware store; this was not the first tin-shop in the village, Hall & Leffingwell having opened one soon after they commenced business; Collins Hall and Samuel Hay were the tinners. Clark & Lusk occupied the store built by Powers, and the same now used by Clark as a hardware store. Among other arrivals were E. W. Cornes, a jeweler, who opened a shop, and Samuel Noyes and family; Noyes first engaged in putting up the endless chain pumps.

Local Sportsmen.—Long before this, the deer had disappeared from the forest and prairie, most of them having fallen before the rifles of our hardy nimrods. In absence of this more noble game, the hunters of '40 had for the most part, retired on their laurels and now stood ready to entertain all good listeners with marvelous tales of the sports of those earlier days, and of their own wondrous exploits in the chase; still for those who could content themselves with this "day of small things," much sport was to be found in the pursuit of the smaller species of game, such as quail, grouse, pigeons, etc. These were found in abundance, and almost daily parties were to be seen sallying forth with pointers and guns, and returning at night with well-filled bags, whose contents they liberally distributed among their numerous friends. Prominent among these for their skill and success, were Sanger Marsh, James Worm and Wm. Trippe. The test of merit was to be a good shot on the wing, a feat which the most experienced hunters find it difficult to accomplish and one which few could perform.

The Railroad Comes in Sight.—But the great excitement, the one event of the year, was the taking of stock in the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad. During the fall, various meetings were held to excite the interest of the people and to impress upon the minds of the community the importance of having the road pass through Whitewater. Every one was in favor of the road, the only difference of opinion being that some

were strong in faith that it would be a good investment, paying a dividend of 15 to 25 per cent., while others thought it would not prove to be stock paying a very heavy per cent., but all concurred in the opinion that it was the duty of each, both for his own and the public good, to do all that he could, without involving himself so as to more than counterbalance the benefits to be derived, to forward its completion. At the first meeting held for the purpose of taking some definite measures, Leander Birge, Rufus Cheney, and Prosper Cravath were appointed a committee to confer with the Board of Directors to have the road pass through Whitewater and to ascertain the form of the subscriptions. The country around had now become thickly settled by industrious farmers, but all grain had to be hauled with horses and wagons to the Milwaukee market. Of the great amount of travel on this road, some idea may be gained by the fact that there were already fifteen taverns on the usual traveler's route between Whitewater and Milwaukee. All felt the necessity of having some more expeditious mode by which to convey their produce to market than the slow, plodding one of carrying it over miserable and, at some seasons, almost impassable roads.

In the summer and fall, D. Carley taught a select school in the old meeting house, as it was now designated, the Congregational church having at this time completed their present house of worship, at a cost of $4,300. During the winter the Baptists finished their house on lot one, block five.

Phinney and George Pierce purchased the Exchange and moved into it. Robert Campbell bought F. C. Patterson's livery stable, on lot one, block eight, the same now occupied by Joel Clapp.

THE YEAR 1850.

In the spring of '50, the California fever, which then raged as an epidemic throughout the whole country, took off many of our citizens. Among the lawyers, Esquires Earle, Patterson, and Grant, fell victims to the attack, and Dr. Powers and Dr. Brewer of the medical fraternity, were among the first to start for the

land of promise. The opposers of calomel had lost their confidence in the Thompsonian system, and had made the discovery that cold water, such as gurgles through our limestone rocks, was a full equivalent for waters of the pool of Siloam. Many of those who at this time sought the land of gold, are still living there. These, many years ago, were active citizens of our town, and oftentime in the quiet hours, must their thoughts wander back to the Whitewater of their memory, to the scenes once familiar, now, perchance, half forgotten.

Railroad Stock and Farm Mortgages.—Early in the spring, the directors of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad re-commenced operations, bringing forward an entirely new project; they asked the farmers to take stock in the road, and to mortgage their farms for the amount, payable in ten years, the company agreeing to pay the interest; they insisted in all their speeches, that the dividend, over and above the interest, would more than pay the mortgages, and that at the end of ten years, stockholders would have their stock clear, and would be in the receipt of a yearly dividend as a support and consolation in their old age. Many believing these assertions, mortgaged their farms without the least fear of ever being compelled to pay the same; among the most active citizens of the town, in procuring mortgages, were Hon. Rufus Cheney, Jr., and E. Wakeley, Esq. There were some who were opposed to this scheme; they felt willing to pay the amount, but advised against the mortgaging of farms; these were stigmatized by the other class as old fogies, and opposers of improvement, but 1860 will decide which were right.

Fencing of Grove Cemetery.—During the spring, the Cemetery Association enlarged their grounds by the purchase of two additional acres; this formed the present boundaries of Grove Cemetery. Their next step was to take measures for the building of a fence. There had been but a few dollars paid as yet on the lots, for the majority, having little faith in the grounds being immediately fenced, were not disposed to pay their dues. In this dilemma, Leander Birge came forward

and volunteered to purchase the fence boards and to become personally responsible for the hauling of the same from Milwaukee, as also for the posts and labor. In the fall R. O'Connor and P. H. Brady were chosen members of the association, Leander Birge still acting as president. Soon after, they gave out a general invitation for all interested to assemble on a certain day to assist in clearing up the grounds; this invitation was accepted by every man who was able to labor, and each worked with a hearty good-will and to a good purpose. O'Connor undertook to engineer the work, and to superintend the laying out and embellishment of the grounds and from that day to this has acted in the capacity of chief engineer.

In January of '50, there was a division of the Sons of Temperance organized; many joined who had been in the habit of frequently indulging in the excessive use of spirituous liquors, and its numbers were increased to more than one hundred. For a year, this was a temperance place, but since then more than one has gone astray and violated his temperance pledge.

In the spring, Hall & Cheney dissolved partnership, and during the summer, Cheney built the store now occupied by the postoffice, on lot four, block eight, and having purchased a stock of goods, started on his own responsibility. Dr. Lee and Dr. Warne went into company, renting the office now occupied by Dr. Warne, where he has kept possession until the present time. McLaughlin had taken Robert McBeath as a partner, and the latter built his present residence on lot four, block ten. Joseph B. Rogers built the dwelling on lot thirteen, block fourteen, Busby commenced the house on lot one, block one, Wilson's addition, and Warren Cole put up a frame on lot two, block four. Among the new-comers were C. P. Goodrich and Parker, carpenters. Geo. Redington, then in the employ of S. C. Hall as tinner, bought the lot north of the school-house.

The Methodists had the church which they now occupy raised and enclosed; it was not completed, however, until the following year.

Summary of the Year.—According to the census of the year, the population of the town was 1,229, that of

the village 603; outside of the village, there were 111 resident land-owners who were assessed. There were seventy-nine dwellings built on lots that were assessed to the owners of the buildings. Of business buildings, there were six stores, three groceries, two of which sold liquors, one drug store, though in one of the other stores drugs were kept, two hotels, two saddle and harness shops, three tailor shops, one law office, one jeweler's shop, five blacksmith shops, one foundry, L. A. Winchester and Daniel Trippe having started it, two doctors' offices, two tin and hardware stores, two wagon shops, one gunsmith shop, two livery stables. Of the ninety-one who were assessed, forty-six now reside in the village; there were twenty-one voting in the fall, who were not assessed; of these, six now live in the village. There were assessed, in the town, 21,022 acres, valued at $88,880, and 116 lots valued at $21,740; the amount of personal property was $37,450. At the fall election, there were 196 voters. There were two churches completed, the Baptist and Congregational, while the Methodists had theirs partially finished. The tax of the town for the year, was $294.40 for state tax, $455.26 for county tax, $347.20 for school purposes, $50 towards paying for cemetery grounds, $155 for town purposes, and $9.81 for the blind asylum. The tax on J. M. Clark's farm was $45.68, that on Wintermute's hotel $12.56.

The merchants were Peck, Keep & Co., S. C. Hall & Co., Marsh & Partridge, Rufus Cheney, Jr., Levi Powers, and R. O'Connor; there were engaged in the grocery business Caswell & Curtis, D. Giddings, and Robert Campbell; the saddle and harness makers were J. Witting, Worm, and Schenhart; tailors, P. McLaughlin, R. McBeath, A. Sentenn and Job Bonnell. The medical profession was represented by Clark & Rice and Lee & Warne, the legal by P. Cravath, E. Wakeley and E. Brown, a new-comer.

Chapman & Ludington's Addition.—In September, George W. Chapman and James Ludington, of Milwaukee, bought of William Birge the east half of the south-east quarter of section five,* excepting such portions

*Between Franklin and Summit Streets, south of Main Street.

as Birge had previously sold, and his present homestead at the corner of Main and Prairie streets, in all about three acres. There were about seventy acres, which he sold "for and in consideration of the sum of $4,600," as the deed reads, this being the first purchase made in the village for the purpose of speculation.

Thus ended the year '50, with no great event to mark its course, nothing occurring either to unusually elevate or depress the minds of the community, and at the close we find Whitewater a very cosy and comfortable place. It had become once more comparatively temperate and moral, its fallen reputation was in a great measure restored, its citizens had gradually increased in wealth and the public spirit of its inhabitants had caused many improvements of a permanent and substantial nature to be made; all in all it presented to the eye a very pleasing and attractive exterior, and was by no means a bad place to live in.

THE YEARS 1851 AND '52.

As the years '37 and '45 formed important eras in the history of the town, so '50 and '52 stand out prominently for the improvements made and advantage attained. Since '44, many changes for the better had been effected, but from '52 to '58 still greater ones were destined to be made.

From '44 to '51, the inhabitants had not been wholly engrossed in laying up treasures on earth, but by the pious and devout, the community were frequently seminded that it was the part of wisdom to lay up their treasures where corruption could not come and where bars, bolts, and safes would be useless. For this purpose, a series of religious meetings was held at the Congregational church by the resident clergyman, assisted by a few from abroad; among these was the Rev. J. J. Miter, of Beaver Dam, and many there were who openly declared they had made a total surrender of all they were and hoped to be into the hands of their Creator. Early in the year '47, similar meetings had been held with nearly the same assistants and crowned with like success. Of such as shall be saved, many were added in the different folds, and each flock of the "Shepherd of Israel" was increased in numbers.

A Fourth of July Celebration.—In '46, the people, animated by a stirring of patriotism, determined to celebrate the glorious Fourth something after the manner of our forefathers, and preparations were made accordingly. They did not start with the idea of a great and grand performance, but the inhabitants of the village and immediate vicinity were to meet, to manifest in the good old way their love of liberty. On the day, the people assembled, cheered by the firing of cannon, anvils, and muskets, the juveniles filling up the pauses with the incessant firing of their fire-crackers. An oration was delivered by Esq. Wakeley, in which he portrayed the blessings of liberty, and the true mode of its preservation, after which all partook of a well-served dinner; then followed the usual toasts, drunk amidst the roar of cannon and anvils, the ceremonies concluding with a ball in the evening. As a usual thing, the Fourth of July was honored by a Sabbath School celebration and a picnic, which were duly enjoyed by the little folks. Among the other events that excited the interest of the community were the lectures of the Rev. Augustus Littlejohn, in the spring of '49; they were on temperance, education, religion, and life in general. It was during these lectures, after going on Third street, from Main to Center, that he uttered that memorable saying, that "no community could worship God with such dirty, filthy streets and such old, broken-down, tiserty-riserty fences as there were in this village."

Poor Crops.—Crops of all kinds had been good until '49; that year they were quite poor, and in '50 still worse, but in '51 the most miserable of all; the summer was wet, and from August until about the middle of September it rained almost daily. Nearly one-fourth of the wheat rotted before harvest time, and was not cut. Of the wheat harvested, much was greatly injured, none being good except a few very early pieces. Even the hogs would not eat it after it was ground, and would touch neither bran nor shorts. It received the name of "pink-eye," and those were known as "pink-eye" years.

The Gazette, under "Janesville prices current Nov. 19th, 1851," reads as follows: Grain, per bushel, winter wheat, 25 and 35 cts.; spring, 20 and 25 cts.; corn shelled, 20 cts.; in ear, 16 cts.; oats, 12 and 15 cts.; provisions, pork in the hog, $3.50 and $4; beef, 3 and 5 cts. per pound; butter in the roll, 12 and 14 cts.; eggs, 10 cts. per dozen; chickens, 12 cts.; potatoes, 44 cts. per bushel; beans, 75 cts. and $1; onions, 50 cts.; hay, native, $2.50 per ton; wood, $1.50 per cord. Dec. 24th the quotations were: Winter wheat, 28 and 45 cents per bushel; spring wheat, 20 and 25 cents; pork in hog, $3.25 and $3.75; other things were the same as in November.

Church Activities.—In February of '51, the Congregationalists, Methodists and Baptists engaged in another protracted meeting; the services were held in the brick church, each denomination having some of their brethren from abroad to assist in the good work; the Methodists securing the services of Elder Puffer, a notable revivalist; but the large number which on previous occasions had been added to the list of the faithful left but few to be gathered into the fold, so that numerically considered, their labors did not seem as richly rewarded as formerly. Rev. L. R. Humphrey was established as rector over this parish, and in the summer the Episcopal Society commenced building their present church.

Up to '50, the representatives sent to the Legislature from the village of Whitewater were Dr. Trippe in '42 and '43, Warner Earle in '45, and E. Wakeley in '47. Solmous Wakeley in '46 was a member of the Constitutional Convention. Prosper Cravath was a member of the Assembly for the first Legislature held in June, 1848, Rufus Cheney in '49; E. Wakeley, senator in '51.

The last of March, '51, Peck, Keep & Co. sold their stock of goods to P. H. Brady, Jacob J. Starin and D. S. Cook, and rented them the store. Peck, who had occupied the corner for ten years, soon left for Chicago, Albert Keep accompanying him, where they started in the wholesale business, Henry Keep remaining here to settle up their old business.

Among the buildings erected during the years '51 and '52, Elder L. W. Freeman put up the dwelling north of block fifteen, Chapman & Ludington's Addition, now owned by Dr. Warne; Sidney Sikes, the one on the lot marked D. Bassett, Birge's Addition; William Hunter the one at the corner of Main and Cottage streets; John Winnick, Esq., the one west of D. S. Cook's; Goodrich & Parker one in the angle of Janesville and Franklin streets; Rufus Cheney his present residence on lot two, block four; J. L. Pratt his on seventeen, block fourteen; Rev. M. P. Kinney the dwelling now owned by R. A. Trippe, on Main street; M. E. Conger his on lot three, block twelve; R. O'Connor the dwelling now owned by Lewis Cook on lot four, block twelve; S. S. Workman the building on subdivision three, lot nine, block thirteen, and John Bowers one on subdivision four, now occupied by Van Cott as a saloon.

In the summer of '51, Chapman & Ludington surveyed and plotted into lots the land they bought of Birge, and it was recorded as Chapman & Ludington's Addition. During the years '51 and '52, there were eighty-one lots sold and eleven dwellings erected on the lots. D. B. Peck, Esq., built the house now owned by him on lot eight, block fifteen, and Isaac and Abner Joslin the one on lot one, block fifteen, now owned by E. Redington. Peck & Joslin first settled in Lima in '42, afterwards moved to Cold Spring, and eventually to Whitewater. Thomas Dow put up the dwelling on lot five, block sixteen, now owned by Seth M. Billings, Albert Woodbury the one on lot two, block seventeen. Lots sold on the addition for from $35 to $100, lots one and two of block fifteen being $100 and the next highest $85.

In the fall of '51, the Catholics selected the lots where their church now stands, and completed their building in '53. In August of '52, the Episcopal church was finished and consecrated. The average attendance at the Episcopal church in '52 was about forty, at the Congregational one hundred, at the Baptist eighty, at the Methodist forty-five, at the Catholic one hundred and fifty. The village during '49 and '50 was frequently visited by preachers claiming a special revela-

tion, uttering fearful warnings and proclaiming that the end of all things was nigh at hand.

In the summer of '52, Mrs. R. A. Trippe caosed to be surveyed and platted all of section four, on the west side of the pond and south of Whitewater street, as Trippe's Addition. P. Cravath, with William Trippe as assistant, did the surveying, and in honor of the latter Kidd alley was so named, Kidd being the title by which he was known among the early settlers.

S. C. Hall and Sanger Marsh had each finished their warehouses, on lots five and six, block two, Trippe's Addition. The present depot was completed at the same time and Col. E. Barber was appointed the agent for this station. During the year H. C. Bull had established a lumber yard on lots nine and ten, block fourteen.

The Janesville Gazette of Dec. 18th, 1852, quotes: Produce—Winter wheat, 65 and 72 cents per bushel; spring wheat, 50 and 60 cents; shelled corn, 40 cents; oats, 25 and 28 cents. Provisions—Pork in hog, $5 and $5.65; beef, 3 and 6 cents per pound; butter, 16 and 18 cents; chickens, 12 cents; potatoes, per bushel 37 cents. The Sentinel of the 16th quotes: Winter wheat, fair article, 80 cents per bushel; club and spring, 76 cents; hedgerow, superior, 73 cents; pork, $5.50 and $5.75; extra, $5.75 and $6.

In the fall of '52, Whitewater was all astir; produce and provisions of all kinds and in large quantities were daily coming in from the north, west, and south. The old quiet was broken up and the town began to put on quite a business-like air. All were excited, even the old fogies expanded a little, and they were forced to acknowledge that verily there might be something new under the sun. Many had never before looked upon a railroad or train of cars, and heard for the first time the scream of the locomotive; all rejoiced at the good time already come, and looked forward to the better times coming.

Death's Inroads.—Although the years of '51 and '52 gave a fresh impulse to our village, yet the business portion of the inhabitants were sadly reminded that this was not their permanent abiding place by the

death, during the year of '51, of Henry Schenhart and Seth Caswell; in '52 of F. C. Patterson, who, but just returned from California, was called from friends and all the social enjoyments of earth in which he delighted, to enjoy the Mansion in his Father's House prepared for him. In June of the same year, the corpse of Philander Peck was brought from Chicago and interred in Grove Cemetery. Although by strict economy and close application to business he had, without engaging in any uncertain speculations or any dishonest transactions, amassed a fortune, yet he could take nothing with him, for his body, like others, must return to dust as it was, and "his spirit to God who gave it"; as it was in the beginning, to partake of higher and purer enjoyments than earth could afford. In the spring of '54, the living were called upon to mourn the death of Leander Birge, one of the earliest settlers of the village; possessing a social and friendly feeling towards all, he had many friends, but no enemies; being active and energetic, he commanded the respect of all, but, just as he had reached manhood's prime and all his bright anticipations seemed about to be realized, he was called to his final home in a city not made with hands, complete and perfect.

THE YEARS 1853 AND 1854.

Building of the "Union" School.—The old schoolhouse, built when the town was in its infancy, had long since been found insufficient to accommodate all the youth of the district, and the necessity of a larger and more commodious building became daily apparent; for an overcrowded and uncomfortable room, and as an inevitable consequence, bad schools, did not seem materially to aid in the expansion of the minds and intellects of the rising generation. As early as '52, the subject had been agitated; but, from want of unanimity and concert of action, no definite measure had been taken, some wishing to build a new house, others thinking it better to put up an addition to the old one. At the annual meeting in '52, the subject was again brought forward with a similar result. Some were in favor of erecting a splendid building and connecting

with the school collegiate and academic departments, others preferred a common school with one higher department, while others still would have only the common branches taught, proposing to build a house of but moderate dimensions. These argued that it would best promote the growth and interest of the village if a common school only was provided for by tax, leaving it for those who might wish to give their children the advantages of a more liberal education to build an academy and sustain the same by individual enterprise. Neither faction prevailing, the building of the house was postponed for future action. Soon after, the academy party started a subscription for the erection of a small building, Chapman & Ludington having offered to donate four lots on block eighteen as a site. All signed from ten to twenty-five dollars each, and in a short time the sum of eighteen hundred dollars was subscribed. They even went so far as to procure an act of incorporation, but, meeting with strong opposition from those who favored the plan of uniting in one institution the advantages of a college, academy and common school, the project was abandoned. In the fall of '53, a compromise was effected, and the question finally decided, the district voting the means to build the present school-house on lots one and two, block twenty-one, and in the summer of '54 the same was completed.

William DeWolf, an old settler of La Grange, having moved into the village in the spring of '53, went into company with L. A. Winchester, in the plow and foundry business, and this, which first began as a blacksmith shop, has since grown into the large establishment now numbered among the institutions of the village.

In March, William Birge bought of Mrs. R. A. Trippe the flouring mill and water power, and made, during the summer, extensive improvements in the dam and mill. Mrs. Trippe purchased the house north of Main street, on section five, of Rev. M. P. Kinney. He soon after closed his ministerial labors in Whitewater and removed to Janesville, bearing with him the respect and esteem of all.

At the town meeting, in the spring of the same year, R. O'Connor was chosen overseer of road district number one, and about one-half of the highway tax was expended on the streets of the village, it being the first tax worked out within the village limits. In '52, by subscription, Main street, the length of blocks eight and nine, and Center street, across block eleven, had been graveled.

Building and Business.—R. O'Connor sold his store and lot to M. E. & O. H. Conger. B. O. Daily started a store in the building on lot four, block nine; Nelson Sayles a book store in the law office on lot three, block one. Thomas Bassett, who, in the fall of '51, had opened a grocery in the store owned by Le Baron, bought the east part of lot two, block one, and removed his stock into the store on the same, where he is now doing business. Charles S. Noyes was engaged in the saddle and harness business, having opened a shop on block eight, some time in '51. Larson & Henderson, merchants, occupied Le Baron's store.

During the summer, Warren Cole erected the "Emporium Block," on lots one and two, block nine. This, at the time, was a great and magnificent structure, and towering far above the surrounding buildings, was a great ornament to the village and the pride and delight of all eyes; by many the third story was considered a superfluity, involving a useless expenditure of money. Eli King put up the dwelling on the corner of Center and Franklin streets, now occupied by H. A. Conger.

In the summer of '54, the west half of the southeast quarter of section five was surveyed into lots and recorded as Birge's Addition. Lots soon began to sell on this, and during the year '54 one hundred and thirteen lots were disposed of, nine on Birge's Addition, eighty-seven on Chapman & Ludington's, and twenty-seven were sold by Mrs. Trippe. In September of '54, the price of each of the unsold lots on Mrs. Trippe's, Chapman & Ludington's, Wilson's and Birge's respective additions, was marked upon the lot, and these have been offered for sale at the same price from that day to this; none have been sold for more, but a few still remaining can now be bought for one-third less

than what was then their market value. During the years '53 and '54, there were seventy-seven buildings erected; fifteen on the old plot, ten on Trippe's Addition, forty-four on Chapman & Ludington's, three on Birge's, and five on Wilson's. Among the buildings, Joseph Bower put up the store on lot four, block eight, now occupied by Wahlstedt; McLaughlin & McBeath the building now occupied by the latter as a clothing-store on lot three, block nine; Martin Dake his grocery on lot seven, block fourteen; Thomas H. Webb the saloon, and Morris Ensign the "Badger State" on lot seven, block fourteen, where he still caters to the appetite of a hungry public.

Market Quotations.—The quotations for October 28, 1853, at Janesville, is: Wheat, winter, 75@80 cents per bushel; spring, 70@75 cents; corn, shelled, 37 cents; oats, 20@25 cents; pork in the hog, $4.25@5.25; beef, 5@7 cents per pound; butter, roll, 18 cents; potatoes, 20 cents; apples, green, $1.26 per bushel; wood, $2.50 per cord; at Milwaukee, for the 27th of the same month, the quotations are: Wheat, range of all kinds, 80@93 cents; prime winter, 90@93 cents: spring, red and club, 85@87 cents; Black Sea and hedgerow, 80@82 cents; barley, 42@46 cents; rye, 53@54 cents; oats, 25@27 cents; quotations at Janesville December 7th, 1854, are: Winter wheat, $1.10@1.20; spring, 95c@$1.00; rye, 55 cents; corn, shelled, 50 cents; pork, $3.50@3.75. From the Milwaukee Sentinel, September 14th, the quotations are: Prices declined 12@15 cents on wheat under news by the Niagara; winter sold for $1.15@1.30; club, $1.10@1.15; corn, supply sold before the news at 55@60 cents; barley, 85@90 cents; rye, 85@88 cents; oats, 35@36 cents; potatoes, 50 cents.

Among the new-comers who engaged in business, were G. H. & E. A. Smith, merchants, who opened a store in one of Cole's rooms; J. L. Butterfield, also a merchant; J. T. Smith, a jeweler, in '53; Dr. Hoadly, a dentist; L. W. Cutler, who started a grocery store on lot eight, block fourteen; J. McHose, who engaged in the produce business, and Mr. Herbst opened a clothing store.

At the close of the year, the town of Whitewater contained 2,594 inhabitants; of this number 1,825 were residents of the village. There were in the village 208 persons assessed, and 485 lots, valued at $50,490, the personal property at $24,450.

The Cholera.—In the summer of '54, the cholera, in its ravages through the country, did not entirely pass over our village; a few of the citizens fell victims to the disease; among this number were Eli King, a former resident of the village, and an active member of the Baptist church, and Dr. O. C. Magoon, a man of the strictest integrity, fully and candidly believing in the final restoration of the race, and that each would be judged according to the deeds done and the acts performed; and by this rule he governed himself through life.

Tribute to Early Citizens.—There now lie in Grove Cemetery four of the early settlers, Asaph Pratt, Dr. James Trippe, Philander Peck, and Dr. O. C. Magoon, all in many respects alike, being men of original thought and acting upon their own opinion of things; each judged men by their manhood, not by their outward equipage. They deemed it better to accommodate their wants to their income, than to issue bonds and mortgages to keep up appearances, believing it to be a bad policy either for individuals or corporations to encumber their realty for improvements; though willing to receive interest, they never paid any, believing it, in this case, better to receive than to give, and each of them left to his heirs a large estate unencumbered with debts for administrators to pay.

General Solvency.—It was by these men, and others of the same stamp, that our town up to the year '54 was governed; it was such opinions that had control in public and private matters, and Whitewater at the close of '54 as a town was free from debt, and every society therein, or owed but a very small sum, notwithstanding the wildcat banks of Indiana, Michigan, and other states were breaking, and business men failing. At no time, nor in any community, has there probably been fewer private debts; merchants, mechanics, tradesmen of every kind, farmers and laborers were all

in easy circumstances; courts, sheriffs, and constables had little or nothing to do, and lawyers were forced to turn land agents; farmers did not have to keep out of town for fear of being dunned; no bonds or mortgages were lying in Eastern safes against the town or individuals. Each man felt that his house was his castle; nor did he fear losing his tenure thereon, or have reason to return thanks within his secret heart for the provisions of the exemption act. On the first day of January, 1855, men could meet and heartily wish each other a happy New Year.

THE YEAR 1855.

The year of '55, which proved one of unparalleled prosperity, was ushered in under the most favorable auspices. The growth of the town for the two preceding years had been rapid and for the most part of a substantial kind. Every branch of industry was represented in our midst; the various departments of trade were brisk and lively, settlers coming in, and everyone was prophesying marvellous things in the future.

Business Houses.—With the beginning of the year, the following firms were engaged in the mercantile business: That of S. C. Hall & Co., the resident partners being S. C. Hall and C. E. Hall; S. Marsh & Co., partners, S. Marsh and J. C. Partridge; Cheney and Williams, partners G. G. Williams and Rufus Cheney; S. H. Smith & Co., partners G. H. and E. A. Smith; W. Cole & Co., partners W. Cole, Gaylord Graves and W. Cole, Jr.; Brady, Starin & Cook, partners P. H. Brady, J. J. Starin and D. S. Cook; A. F. Richmond, and J. S. Butterfield. There were in the grocery business Thomas Bassett, C. E. Curtice, L. B. Hunt, M. H. Drake, and J. Crissman, a saloonkeeper. There were four public houses, the Whitewater Hotel, S. Wintermute, proprietor; the Exchange, kept by J. Emery; the Badger State, by M. Ensign; the American House, by L. Cadman. Of the practicing physicians, there were Clark & Rice, H. Warne, and J. A. Leonard. The members of the legal profession were P. Cravath, E. Wakeley, and H. J. Curtice; Norman Millard, a young lawyer

who had settled here from Milwaukee, having left. There were two saddlery and harness shops, the one kept by C. S. Noyes, the other by J. J. and S. N. Witting. The tailors were P. McLaughlin, R. McBeath, S. Sharp, and A. Sentenn. There was one jeweler's shop, kept by John T. Smith.

First Newspaper.—Among the new things which were to extend the name and fame of our place was the establishment of a paper styled the Whitewater Gazette.

On the 5th day of January, 1855, the first number was issued, H. J. Curtice being at that time editor and publisher, and A. Valentine local editor. It was a weekly publication, republican in politics, and devoted to news generally; it was unassuming in its pretensions and modest in appearance, yet in no wise did it do discredit to the town.

The Old Wisconsin Central.—The mania for railroads had fully seized upon the people, and for a while nothing else was talked or thought of. The success which first attended the completion of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad did not tend to render them less sanguine or enthusiastic. Active measures were taken for the building of another road to run between Chicago and Columbus, taking Whitewater in its route. A charter was obtained for this under the name and title of the Wisconsin Central, and the officers immediately set to work to procure subscriptions to the capital stock of the company. Among the most active and efficient of the officers were Rufus Cheney, Jr., and E. Wakeley, of this place. They entered into the work heartily and energetically, and were very successful in obtaining subscriptions, most of the inhabitants taking from one to five shares. In February, the company contracted with A. Graham & Brother to grade and lay the track from Geneva to Columbus; the same to be completed to Whitewater in one year. In the spring these gentlemen and A. H. Scoville returned from Ohio, where they had just completed a heavy job, and commenced work. Some of the grading between Geneva and the state line had already been done; everything gave promise for the speedy completion of the road,

and to all human calculation it would seem that we were to have a direct communication with Chicago.

In addition to the usual district school, there was a select school taught by B. W. Richardson, assisted by Mrs. Richardson; they occupied a room in Bower's Block as a school-room.

Among the outgrowths of this spirit of enterprise which was in our midst was the Farmers' & Mechanics' Club, which held in the fall its annual fairs, on which occasions our farmers and mechanics have never failed to bring convincing proofs of their industry and ingenuity.

New Buildings.—As the spring approached, building again commenced; on block nine, lots one and two, G. H. Smith and Charles E. Curtice built the Commonwealth Block; S. Marsh the store on lot six; S. C. Hall, Hall's Block on lot nine, and Joseph Bowers the block which bears his name, on block thirteen. L. Cadman put up the upright part of the American House; E. C. Hall his present residence north of Main street fronting Church street, Winchester & DeWolf their present plow factory on lot five, block one, Trippe's Addition, and J. C. Williams & Co. the pottery on lot five, block four. Most of the warehouses on the railroad grounds were built during the years '54 and '55. Among the houses built on Chapman & Ludington's Addition, was that of S. S. Workman north of block sixteen, now owned by Maxon, that of S. Clark on lot eight, block sixteen; that of N. L. Eels on lot six, block twenty; that of S. Fields on lot six, block twenty-one; that of J. T. Smith on lot seven, block twenty-seven; that of Rev. M. Rowley on lot one, block twenty-seven; that of P. Ondell on lot nine, block twenty-eight; that of A. B. Lee on lots three and four, block thirty-one; that of Folsom on lot four, block eighteen; that of E. C. Wheeler on lots nine and ten, block twenty-four. There were also twenty-six smaller buildings put up. On Birge's Addition E. Wakeley built his dwelling, north of block one; Rev. O. Montague the house on lot twenty-nine, block two; there were four other dwellings built, and five on Wilson's Addition. William Richardson had in op-

eration on lot one, block fourteen, the sash factory and planing mill now owned by T. S. Abbott & Co.

Among the new-comers, were J. M. Crombie and C. Thrasher, merchants, who commenced business in Bower's building, on block eight; A. Wahlstedt and C. W. Madden, who bought Henderson's stock of goods; Butler G. Noble, who opened a drug store; M. M. Woodworth, who built the house on lot nine, block fifteen, and opened a select school; Dr. Aldenbruch, a physician, who immediately commenced practice; A. M. Osborne, who engaged in the grocery business; J. Root, who opened a saloon in Bower's Block; Rev. O. Montague, who was engaged as their minister by the Baptist Society. In the fall, A. Graham and A. H. Scoville opened an exchange and banking office in Bower's Block, where is now the Merchants & Mechanics' Bank. About the middle of December, G. H. Smith & Co. removed their stock of goods into their new store; the occasion was celebrated by a festival; at this the subject of a city or village charter was proposed. Soon after, a public meeting was called, at which Prosper Cravath and E. Wakeley were chosen as a committee to draft and prepare a charter to be submitted to a future meeting, which they were empowered to call when ready to report. The committee, after consulting, came to the conclusion that corporate powers would result in an injury to the town, and consequently never made their report.

A Cold Winter.*—About the middle of December the reign of winter commenced in good earnest, and never, within the memory of the oldest inhabitants, had there been such severe and long-continued cold weather; it will long be remembered as pre-eminently the cold winter.

Market Quotations.—The quotations from the Whitewater Gazette for Nov. 8th, 1855, are: Flour,

*NOTE:—The winter of 1855-6 killed off most of the young fruit trees that had been planted. Abel Slocum, in Lima, had conducted a sort of nursery business, bringing in fruit trees from Ohio, of the old sorts which flourished at the East. Many orchards had been planted and had come into bearing with a promising outlook. But this winter formed a sort of turning point, and fruit trees have never thriven since as they did in the earlier years. For instance, not a few peaches were raised in Walworth County when the country was new.

Birge's best, $7.50@8.00; wheat, white winter, $1.55@1.70; red, $1.50@1.56; club, $1.35@1.40; other spring wheat, $1.35@1.38; barley, $1.00@1.03; rye, 85@87 cents; oats, 31@32 cents; corn, 56 cents; potatoes, 30@35 cents; butter, 14@15 cents; pork, per cwt., $5.50; live weight, $4.50. During the year '55, there was shipped by railroad from Whitewater 12,285 barrels and 1,048 bags of flour, 242,669 bushels of wheat, 18,245 of barley, 12,978 of corn, 2,444 of rye, 6,181 of oats, 32,964 of grass seed, pork in hog 504,942 pounds, 2,256 barrels of pork, 401 of lard, live stock 115,540 pounds, 2,055 hides, 36,703 pounds of hops, 3,904 bushels of potatoes, 171 of beans, 31,286 pounds of butter, 4,020 dozen of eggs, 20 barrels of quail, other produce to the amount of 50,979 pounds, 1,200 barrels of high wines, 32 of beer, 70,300 bricks, 6,294 pounds of broom corn, 561 empty barrels, 808 bedsteads, 725 plows, 671 pieces of castings, and other things not included, 281,988 pounds; the proceeds of which would amount, at Whitewater market prices, to $728,000.

In the fall, our young men in accordance with the then prevailing custom, organized a literary association, and made arrangements for a course of lectures during the winter; several distinguished lecturers from abroad addressed the association, as well as some from our own state.

THE YEAR 1856.

The first week of January, '55, the new school-house being fully completed, our district school first commenced under what is termed a regular system, the superintendence of the school being given to Prof. A. A. Lewis.

Wisconsin Central Railroad Bonds.—During the same month, the officers of the Wisconsin Centrail Railroad proposed that the town of Whitewater should issue bonds to the amount of $40,000, these to be used by the company as collateral security to their own bonds to give them better credit. In order to convince the voters that it would be for their interest to do this, meetings were held at Metropolitan Hall; these were addressed by R. Cheney and E. Wakeley in favor of the

project. Cheney was at that time Vice President of the road and was active and energetic in devising ways and means for the construction of the road. They stated that more means were required, as the subscription to the capital stock was small; that it was necessary for the towns along the line of the road to guarantee a certain amount towards the payment of the bonds which the company might issue, for thus would they prove to capitalists, by their works, that they had confidence in the enterprise. They affirmed that if the road was built, the freight on the Milwaukee & Mississippi road would be cheaper; and in proof thereof, stated that the Milwaukee road carried freight cheaper from Janesville than from Whitewater, which was a fact; that even should the town have the bonds to pay, it would be a gain in the end, for independent of the rise in real estate, they would save more than the interest each year in freight, and furnished a mathematical demonstration of their assertion, by showing from the above statement made by E. Barber and A. W. Kenzie, of the amount shipped that a reduction of but one per cent on a bushel of wheat, and on other freight in proportion, would more than pay the interest. Among those who opposed the issuing of the bonds, were H. J. Starin and Proper Cravath; they admitted all the facts as stated by Cheney and Wakeley, but were of the opinion that whatever bonds were issued would have to be paid, and contended that it would be better for the town to make calculation upon this, to take stock upon the same footing as other stockholders, to pay one-fifth every year until the whole amount was paid, and then at the end of five years we should, as a town, be free from debt. In this plan of a town assisting a company in making improvements, they of course had no precedents by which to be governed. As in case of all new projects, there arose honest differences of opinion which were hard to reconcile, but the matter was finally decided at the town meeting in favor of issuing bonds, there being about two votes for, to one against it.

Business Changes.—In March, Cheney & Williams sold their store on block eight and their stock of goods to H. D. Hull. Soon after, Sanger Marsh sold his store,

warehouse, and interest in the stock of goods, to J. S. Partridge and A. Graham, and Marsh retired to look after his regular per centum. J. Barker bought out A. F. Richmond, and opened with a large stock of dry goods and groceries. Geo. G. Williams, being postmaster, took charge of the office, and removed it to Bower's Block, next east of the Merchants' & Mechanics' Bank. Lewis Cook bought lot four in block twelve, of R. O'Connor, and went into company with Brady, Starin & Cook.

Expansion of the Village Plat.—George Dann caused to be surveyed and plotted, as Dann's Addition, the west half of the south-west quarter of section three; E. R. Caine as Caine's Addition, part of the east half of the north-east quarter of section eight; Freeman L. Pratt as F. L. Pratt's Addition, part of the east half of the north-east quarter of section five; Corydon Pratt part of the west half of the north-west quarter of section three; A. Graham and A. H. Scoville as Graham & Scoville's Addition, part of the west half of the north-east quarter of section five, and in the summer Mrs. R. A. Trippe, as Trippe's Second Addition, that part of the south half of section four east of the creek.

During the years of '55—56, Mrs. Trippe sold 46 lots; there were sold on Birge's Addition 34, and all of blocks four, five and six; on Wilson's Addition 24. In '56, S. C. Hall sold 20 lots, George Dann 7, and F. L. Pratt 4.

New Buildings.—Among the buildings erected were the stone grist mill by Wm. Birge: Central Block on lots four and five, block nine, by Wm. Birge, Jas. Worm and M. E. and O. P. Congar; the dwelling on lot eight, block twelve, by J. C. Dancy; Powers, Allen & Co.'s stove foundry on lot four, block one, Trippe's Addition; J. S. Partridge also built on his present residence, on lots one and two, block nineteen, Chapman's & Ludington's Addition; D. Chaffee his on lot five, block eighteen; S. Noyes and F. B. Hall theirs on the corners of Janesville and Walworth streets; D. S. Cook his on the lot marked Cook on Main street in F. L, Pratt's Addition; F. J. Starin his on Fourth street, next west of Wil-

son's Addition, and Geo. Esterly the frame part of his reaper works on S. C. Hall's Addition.

In the fall, N. M. Littlejohn came into the village and started a lumber yard; M. P. McLaughlin who engaged in the produce business, and J. Stalker, a tailor, who opened a shop in Hall's Block.

Nov. 27th, 1856, the quotations for the Whitewater market were, wheat winter 73 to 75 cents, barley 75 to $1, rye 60 to 65 cents; corn 40 to 45 cents; oats 28 to 30 cents; butter 20 to 22 cents; hogs, live weight, $3.50 to $4.00, dressed, $4.60 to $5.00; wood, maple, $3.50 to $4.00.

Altogether, these two years brought to our town an unusual degree of prosperity. The railroad had given a new impulse to business, strangers flocked in, many improvements were made, in all departments the machinery of life seemed to work smoothly, nor did there appear any reason why the good times should not continue for years to come.

During the winter of '56 and '57, there was but little change in the general order of things. "Hard times," it is true, "came knocking at the door" but they had not, as yet, been admitted as a permanent, though uninvited and most unwelcome guest.

In December of '56, Willard Stebbins and E. F. Tarr bought of Graham & Partridge, the warehouse built by S. Marsh, at which place they are still doing a storage, commission, and forwarding business. F. M. Ely purchased of Baker his stock of goods.

THE YEAR 1857.

Farmers' & Mechanics' Club Incorporated.—On the fourth of March 1857, the Legislature passed an Act of incorporation, conferring upon the Farmers & Mechanics' Club the powers of a body corporate; on the 23d of the same month the society organized under the charter, and proceeded to elect their officers. Rufus Cheney, Jr., was chosen president; J. L. Pratt and E. M. Rice, vice-presidents; I. S. Bangs, secretary; M. E. Conger, corresponding secretary, and A. H. Scoville, treasurer. During the summer, they purchased the land now owned by the club, and soon set to work to improve the

same, that it might be in readiness for the fall exhibition. In the course of the season, a fence was built, the show-house for the exhibition of fancy articles was erected, and a track graded. A bee, with the inducement of a picnic dinner, was made for the purpose of clearing the grounds, but although there was a good attendance, little was done, for they proved much more successful in clearing the tables than in clearing the grounds.

At the annual election of the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company, held on the 18th day of March, Rufus Cheney, Jr., was chosen president; soon after, Graham & Brother surrendered their contract with the company, and a new one was entered into with G. F. & B. D. Harris, they agreeing to complete the road as far north as Jefferson.

Early in the year, Partridge & Graham sold their stock of goods to a firm in Monroe, and Cheney & Williams, having bought back the goods of H. D. Hull, sold them to the same firm; Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart also bought out S. C. Hall & Co., and continued the business at the old stand.

Whitewater Register.—On the first day of January, the last number of the Gazette was issued; it was then edited and published by J. A. Leonard and A. Emerson; these gentlemen soon after removed with their press to Waukesha, and for a short time no paper was published here. But soon after another sheet was started under the auspices of H. L. & L. H. Rann, bearing the name and title, since become so familiar, of the Whitewater Register. The first number was issued March 25th, and weekly since has it chronicled passing events, keeping our citizens "posted" on all matters of interest, both foreign and domestic.

About this time, E. Wakeley received the appointment of judge for one of the circuits in the territory of Nebraska, and soon after he departed to enter upon the duties of his office.

A little later, N. S. Murphey, a lawyer, came into the village and opened an office in Bower's Block; among other new comers were H. B. Shedd and family, he going into the store opened by William Birge; George

Bunker, who early in the spring started a lumber yard on lots nine and ten, block fourteen, and Edson Kellogg, who opened a law office soon after their arrival.

In April, P. H. Brady sold his interest in the store to the other partners and went in company with Powers, Allen & Co., in the stove foundry business. In August, Graham and Scoville organized the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, as a bank of issue, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars.

Among the buildings erected during the year, were the residences of Thomas Bassett, on F. L. Pratt's Addition, corner of Main and Prairie streets; Simeon Cobb's on the west half of section eight; H. C. Phillips's, on Price street, opposite Highland street; J. F. Dancy's on lot seven, block two, Dann's Addition, and O. Gallt's at the corner of Franklin and Walworth streets. School district number one built the brick schoolhouse just east of Grove cemetery, at a cost of $1,600; C. E. Curtice put up the brick block on lot one, block two, and George Esterly the two brick shops in connection with his reaper factory. P. H. Brady had, in '56, built his present residence on lot one, block eleven, and this, in spite of the improvements made in the other parts of the town, still remained the block of the village.

On the fifteenth and sixteenth of September, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Club for the first time held their annual fair on their new* grounds; although the days were rainy there was a good attendance, and the show of fruits, produce, cattle, horses, machines and other articles, was highly creditable.

The quotations for Whitewater, November 21st, were: Wheat, winter, 60@65 cents, spring, 45@50 cents; corn, 38@40 cents; rye, 65 cents; barley, 35@40; cents; oats, 25@30 cents; potatoes, 18@25 cents; pork, $4.50@$5.50; beef, 3@5 cents per lb; butter, 20@35 cents; green apples, $3.00 per bbl.

Financial Crisis.—This was the time of the great financial crisis, when business men in all parts of the country were failing; when banks began to break, and paper with vignette and promise to pay stamped upon it, became worthless, except as a thing of mere curiosity.

*Now owned and occupied by Dr. Strassman.

After four years of unparalleled plenty and prosperity, the reaction came, and there seemed to be a general suspension in every department of trade and business; riches took unto themselves wings and flew away, and many that were greatest became least. Happily, up to '58, there had not been a single failure in Whitewater, and when the crash came, it found our business men standing upon a solid foundation; it is true, there was some wavering, some faltering, but all succeeded in weathering the storm, and arriving at last at safe moorings.

The valuation of the town, including the village, for the year '57, was $304,221, that of the village alone, $191,956; this was about one-fourth of the true valuation, and one-sixth of the asking price. The state, county and town tax, was $3,210.06, and the school tax for the village, $4,200; $1,600 of this sum being appropriated to the building of the new school-house and $250 to the payment of arrearages. The tax on John M. Clark's farm was $245.83. That on the Whitewater Hotel, $47.52.

THE YEAR 1858.

Population.—On the first day of January, 1858, there were, exclusive of the buildings on blocks one, eight, and nine, and blocks one and two, Trippe's Addition, 412 dwelling houses within the corporate limits of the village; these were on lots held by the owners of the buildings; of these 521 had been built since '54. The population since '54 had increased 1200, there being now about 3,000 inhabitants. There were 667 males over twenty-one years of age, of whom 273 were of foreign birth; of the whole number, 77 were carpenters, 46 blacksmiths, 86 laborers, 25 masons, 13 shoemakers, 7 tailors and 3 lawyers. The others were bankers, merchants, mechanics, foundry men, hotel-keepers, saloon and grog-shop keepers, grocers, book-keepers, clerks, railroad officers, contractors, agents of all kinds, town officers, money shavers, and gentlemen of leisure.

Business Houses.—The banks were the Merchants & Mechanics', a bank of issue; and the Bank of Whitewater, one of exchange and deposit only. The mercantile

firms in the drygoods and groceries connected, were Starin, Cook & Co.; S. Smith & Co., Crombie, Francis & Co., W. Cole & Co., William Birge, Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart, and A. Wahlstedt. Among the number connected with these firms, were none who were doing business here as merchants in '50, and eight years had wrought a complete change. There were engaged in other branches of trades, Congar & Day, dealers in books, stationery, and drugs; J. Deichman, druggist; Thomas Bassett, Charles E. Curtice, F. B. Hall, Branch & Pratt, S. Lathrop, and M. H. Dake, dealers in family groceries, Yankee notions, &c.; S. Clark, a hardware merchant; Powers Allen & Co., in the stove and foundry establishment; J. T. Smith, and V. Egloff, jewelers; J. L. Pratt, Thomas Dow, John McCollins, Thomas Dancy, and Henry Sharp, wagon and carriage makers; J. Witting and Wm. Smith, saddle and harness makers; R. McBeath and J. Stalker, merchant tailors; and M. Herbst, keeper of a clothing store. There were four hotels; the Whitewater Hotel, Exchange, Badger State, and the American House. Of physicians, there were Clark & Rice, H. Warne, Belknap, Hawes, Aldenbruch, Clapp, (Eclectic) Mrs. Joselyn, (Homeopathic.) George Esterly's reaper factory was in full operation, and employed about 70 men; and Winchester & DeWolf in the plow and foundry works employed about 30 more. The produce dealers were R. O'Connor, J. McHose, Stebbins & Tarr, S. Hall & Co., Cheney & Williams, S. Smith & Co., F. S. Bonner, M. P. McLaughlin, and C. Brett. T. S. Abbott & Co., were connected with the planing mill. There were three liquor saloons, and eleven grog-shops, in which liquor was almost the only article of traffic.

In each church, the congregations had nearly doubled since '52; the resident clergymen were Wm. A. Baldwin, Congregationalist; Milton Rowley, Methodist; L. R. Humphrey, Episcopal; O. Montague, Baptist, and Richard Dumphy, Catholic. A. D. Hendrickson had charge, at the time, of the Union School.

Whitewater having had the good fortune to be settled by an industrious and intelligent class of inhabitants was, in comparison with other villages of the West, a moral place. Its citizens were for the most

part an order-loving and law-abiding people—men of fixed principles who came here to find a home, not as roving adventurers, and these it was who gave name and character to the place. There was little litigation, but few of those petty misdemeanors, and more serious crimes so common in a community; but few idlers and rowdies and notwithstanding the number of the grog-shops, but few confirmed drunkards; perhaps, in proportion to its inhabitants, there were less of these evils, and more of the opposite virtues than in any other city or village.

Business Buildings.—On block one, besides the hotel, there were five buildings of wood, each a story and a half high; these were occupied as stores, groceries, etc.; on block eight were two brick stores of two stories each, a wagon shop, a paint shop, a dwelling house, an office, and the first hotel, used as a livery stable. On block nine there were nine stores of three stories each; Hall's block, three stories high, with three rooms on the lower floor; two other stores of two stories each, and one of a story and a half. Of block one, Trippe's Addition, was one dwelling of wood, one of brick, one brick stove foundry, one plow factory and foundry, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, and one groggery. On block two, there was a brick porkhouse and two warehouses. On block thirteen, was Bower's block of brick two stories high, containing three lower rooms, one saloon, three joiners' shops, a shoe shop and a justice's office; there were also nine warehouses on the railroad land.

There were then no sidewalks, except on block nine, and a sort of platform which had been built before some of the other stores and shops; none of the streets had been graded, the surface of all being nearly the same as found by the first settlers.

Retrospective.—Such was Whitewater in '58; a pleasant, unassuming, thriving country village, it stood where nineteen years before nature in all her wildness reigned supreme. If then, in its original state, the visitor was pleased with the graceful undulations of its surface, with the calm beauty of the scene, it was now a place admired by all, whether from country, village,

or city. With its streets corresponding with nature's design, with fine blocks, its many beautiful residences, its cosy, comfortable homes, it could not fail to charm the beholder. Nature had not been wholly supplanted by art, but the two were so blended as to mutually embellish and set off each other, without destroying the peculiar beauty of either, leaving upon the mind the impression of a pleasing and harmonious whole. The few remaining settlers of '40, as they thought of the changes made, looked on with amazement, those of '46 with satisfaction, those of '50 and '54 with wonder, and all with pride.

The pioneer, as he looks in at Whitewater, Fort Atkinson, Milton, Janesville, Delavan, Elkhorn, Troy, Palmyra, Waukesha and Milwaukee (all cities and villages now) to seek his former friends and neighbors, finds but few to extend to him the hand of welcome, and meet him with that heartfelt greeting which only a pioneer can give and feel. Many of those who were his companions then have ceased their labors and gone to occupy a mansion not made with hands. Many, who then fought manfully with the world, are now in the decline of life, and with heads "silvered o'er with age," bend wearily upon their staff; but as you speak to them of early days, the fires of youth seem for a moment rekindled in their breasts.

PART II.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF WHITEWATER

From 1858 to the Close of 1867. Collated for the Register by S. S. Steele*

Introductory: Pitt Cravath.—A little more than a year ago, I partly promised to help Pitt Cravath write up a continuation of his father's Historical Reminiscenses of Whitewater, as published in the Register last year, from the Register of 1858. At the time I made the promise, I had but little intention of keeping it very accurately, not thinking it would be necessary beyond getting Pitt into the harness. I am certainly and deeply sorry that my friend—our Pitt—did not live to do this work, most of it at any rate, as we planned and as I surely intended should be the case. He had gone through some of the Register files and made some type written notes, beginning where his father left off at the close of the year 1857. In the breaking up of his office, these notes were in some way unaccountably mislaid. This deprives us of more than the items noted; we lose the impulse of his personality. Pitt Cravath had a large individuality and many qualities worthy of lasting remembrance. Kind and genial in all his ways, he filled a peculiar niche in the affections of all who knew him. No one is more conscious than myself that this

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NOTE:—Spencer S. Steele, the writer of these sketches, came from New York state to Wisconsin, as a boy with his parents, in 1842, settling on a farm in the town of Koshkonong a few miles west of Whitewater. As a boy on the farm, a teacher in the rural schools of the region, and a resident in later years he has been quite intimately acquainted with almost the whole history of the town. In these annals, however, he has not depended so closely upon personal recollections as did Mr. Cravath in his; but has relied largely upon the printed record, a source which was not available for the history of the earlier years.

should have been written by some one more fully identified with the actualities of the time than I was, but as that person did not come to the front, and the editors of the Register insisted on my engagement—think of calling that slender promise an engagement—I have ventured to go a fishing among my old comrades, those who were here, and some who were not, and have especially and exhaustively dragged the columns of the Register, to which I am largely indebted; and without further prelude will go on to make some kind of a record.

Wild-cat Money.—The year 1858 opened with money matters in a worse condition than any man born since then can possibly conceive. There was a regular financial blizzard everywhere, and especially in the great, new, Northwestern Country. Wild-cat paper money, so nicknamed I suppose because not a little of it was issued from places where wild cats were the only inhabitants, was about the only money in circulation. It was said that one place of issue, not a hundred miles from Whitewater, was the top of a maple stump not far from the center of an unsold school section, the banker remarking that as it was only a bank of issue that was all the room he needed. None of the banks were any too responsible. Some of them, perhaps many, struggled honestly, but it was against a tide that few could withstand. There were some survivals, but many disappeared never to be heard of again in time, and probably not in eternity. Thus paper money was worth all the way from par down to zero. with the zero weather uncomfortably prevalent. And then, too, strange as it may seem, not a little of this wretched stuff was counterfeit. It was fitly called a rag currency and it was a wonder that men could do business with such money at all, but they did. Everybody was good natured, and I do not now recall a single instance of any serious trouble over the "taking back" of bad money. Geo. G. Williams was postmaster then and a great deal of the stuff was brought back to him, till one day, getting out of patience, he fairly balked. "See here, mister." said he. "I've taken that bill back thirteen times to-day already, and I tell you right now,

don't you bring it here again." That settled it, for George was just a little emphatic when he was roiled. It was said at one time, in some Milwaukee paper, that bogus quarter eagles—$2.50 gold pieces—were plenty in circulation; but the fellow lied about that, for no kind of gold, bogus or genuine, was plenty enough to be dangerous. One enterprising firm advertised "A hatful of groceries for a York shilling," which was then a Spanish coin worth 12½ cents—at least that is what it passed for. According to my recollection, there were not so many of these in circulation as there were of six-pence (6¼ cents); but the Spanish 25 cent piece was the universal standard in making change. These when worn very smooth, as many of them were, being made of softer silver than our currency, were taken in by some of Uncle Sam's agents and marked with a deep cut full across the smooth side, apparently with the paternal jack knife. They were then called crossed quarters and passed for but twenty cents, but as only one side was crossed they often got themselves passed on the unwary at full twenty-five cent value. Old Squire Wheeler remarked drily, that he always looked at both sides of a question—and a quarter.

THE YEAR 1858.

Patrick McLaughlin, the first tailor to locate in Whitewater and a thoroughly industrious and good citizen, died Jan. 10. Robert McBeath, then a young man, was in company with him in the tailoring and clothing business and has carried it on continuously ever since, over forty years. It is now* forty-nine years since Robert cut his first cloth in Whitewater, and during that time he has made a great many awkward fellows look very decent. William Hamilton was killed at a small charivari party by Richard N. Pierce Jan. 18. This was one of the saddest happenings recorded in our whole history. Pierce was easily convicted and sent to the penitentiary, at best but poor compensation for a mangnificent young life snuffed out at the very threshold of manhood.

*Now fifty-six years, and Mr. McBeath is still handling the shears.

Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart.—Early in the year, S. C. Hall & Co., were succeeded by Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart, all then young men trained in Mr. Hall's employ, full of enthusiasm, and bound to succeed. The same business, continuously, is now carried on by Mr. Stewart. It is said that some of the loafers' chairs turned over to the young firm are still in use and Mr. Stewart considers them pretty good chairs yet. Later. —Stewart says that's not so. The chairs he brags on were some that were made at a very early day by Joe. Powers in his factory at Hebron. At any rate, the chairs are venerable, and in their day have been occupied by some good men. Possibly they are related in some way to the "One Hoss Shay."

The Village Incorporated.—The first efforts to secure the location of the Normal school were made early in February, but it was too soon to secure very energetic attention, and the movement was quickly displaced by a call for a public meeting to consider the desirability of a village charter. This call was printed in the Register of March 6th and was signed by forty-two leading citizens. The meeting was reasonably unanimous in favor of it, and appointed a committee to prepare a charter. A. H. Scoville, N. M. Littlejohn, J. S. Partridge, Warren Cole, Edson Kellogg, R. O'Connor, and Wm. DeWolf were the committee. The charter prepared by this committee was passed by the Legislature then in session, and the first election of village officers was held on Tuesday, May 27th. N. M. Littlejohn was chosen president and the trustees were A. H. Scoville, George Esterly, S. Field, and C. E. Curtice. Edward Barber was treasurer, E. F. Tarr, marshal, and L. H. Rann, clerk. And thus Whitewater began its corporate existence. But very early in their career these new officials learned that their official life was not to be altogether a picnic.

The Sidewalk Question.—The sidewalk question came upon them at all manner of angles and elevations. Nobody wanted to grade up or be graded down, but they all thought they were level—headed. The council had a mind of its own and that mind found its expression through Prosper Cravath's and F. J. Starin's

surveys. It took Prop. a good while to set a stake, but when he did it was no light job to move it. Order, after a time, came out of chaos, and our sidewalks are about as unanimous in their general level as in any city in the country. A few public-spirited citizens had already laid very good board or plank walks and the matter soon became contagious.

Early this spring, when the mud was deeper than usual, some spirited men gathered one morning, contrary to law, and laid the first cross-walk in front of the public school building on Center street. This was a startling and notable event. Teachers and students marched out, down, and across the walk with pride—and clean feet. There was jubilee and rejoicing, and it is recorded that J. L. Pratt, Seth Billings, M. Congar and others make patriotic speeches, and that everybody was proud and happy. From that auspicious morning, dates the sidewalk epidemic. It was never again unlawful to lay a crosswalk in Whitewater.

The following local appeared in the Register of Aug. 21: "The thanks of the community are due Mr. Wm. DeWolf for his steady and vigorous prosecution of the matter of a sidewalk on the south side of Main street. An ordinance was passed at the last meeting of our trustees requiring the construction of a sidewalk from Cottage street east to First street." How does that sound in 1899?

The Saloon Question.—This first village board also found the saloon license a tough customer to wrestle with. It was about as near dynamite as anything then known, and when it was finally touched off the board was blown to pieces. The majority, however, picked themselves up and held on by the skin of their teeth, and finally decided to compromise with the devil and let the saloons run. And after forty years of debating, experiment, and compromising, it is still an open question whether that course is wise—or otherwise. I have great faith however, that those men did what they thought for the best when they did it. Mr. Cravath said in his last article, in 1857, that there were then two saloons and eight or ten groggeries running in Whitewater and he did not seem to think it worth while to ex-

plain the difference—if there was any. It is very probable that we have about held our ground in this matter.

Butler G. Noble represented this district in the State Legislature that year. He was in every respect a first-class man, and was afterwards Lieut. Governor of the state. Mr. Noble refused a re-election and in the fall N. S. Murphey, then a young attorney of ability, was chosen to succeed him. Mr. Murphey afterwards removed to Milwaukee, where he has had a long and successful career as a lawyer.

The Library Association.—The Library Association developed its full strength as a literary society this winter, giving public entertainments all winter, once in two weeks, in the old Bower's Hall, that held the right of way over all comers. Home talent was the only thing ever thought of and the hall was always packed to the door with eager and interested listeners. Those old time boys and girls someway seemed to have a knack of "getting there" themselves. Some of the stars are still living, and, say,—Why isn't it possible to arrange one more meeting of those—now veterans—for the benefit of our present library? During the spring of 1858, these meetings were so popular that they were held weekly up to May 22. Some great questions were debated and many of them (probably) settled. At the last meeting this year, the question debated was, "Is the immortality of the soul proved by the light of nature?" A reporter of the time ventured the opinion that this question was not settled.

During this and several succeeding winters Prof. H. K. Lyon conducted a dancing academy, whatever that may have been, but the Professor and his academy were not abiding institutions, though the dancing part still goes on and probably always will.

Sometime this year, the Cemetery Association purchased the Hillside lot and began the improvements which have made it the beautiful place it now is. R. O'Connor was a leading spirit and was always tireless in our cemetery work. To him, probably more than to any other man, we owe the beauty of our cemeteries.

For some time, great expectations were founded upon the Wisconsin Central Railroad, but they are still

expectations (?) after forty years. Rufus Cheney resigned the presidency of the company this summer and gave up the job as hopeless. The true inwardness of this failure has probably never been written and, it is likely, never will be.

Rev. Wm. A. Baldwin, a very popular pastor of the Congregational church, resigned his charge and accepted a call to Fond du Lac. He was succeeded by Rev. E. G. Miner.

The Fourth of July was celebrated this year in the good old-fashioned way; reading of the declaration, oration, toasts, and general jubilation. Dinner was served on the old fair grounds and everybody was patriotic and happy. Saturday, July 10, the first genuine Simon Pure Horse Show was held on the fair grounds. Quite a large number of good horses, and a large amount of pride among their owners, found a chance to be seen. The show was creditable for a new country.

The first city lock-up was built under the supervision of Marshal Tarr. The day it was completed and he found he could lock it up securely, he went out and arrested the first drunken man he could find and ran him in. The poor fellow felt so bad about it—the lock-up, not the drunk—that he tried to hang himself. After this, the marshal was a little more careful, even particular, about whom he locked up.

The first city directory was compiled and issued by Smith Du Moulin & Co., of Milwaukee. Who has a copy of it now after forty years have buried it away—away in the past?

The Whitewater Light Infantry was organized (on paper) and L. A. Winchester was chosen captain. These were the first—heroes.

The main line of our railroad was completed to Prairie du Chien and the south branch to Monroe, and the same was duly celebrated.

Glancing through some of the advertisements of 1858 in the Register, Frank W. Tratt, our now worthy mayor, advertises pure milk and fresh eggs, daily and semi-daily, on reasonable terms. Which the same Frank did deliver faithfully and with smiles which kept every-

thing sweet. After a time, he explained his reasonable terms to mean cash or no milk. If he hadn't made that explanation he would have been selling milk yet—perhaps.

Advertisements.—Wm. Birge says he will astound and astonish his customers. He also says, very confidentially, that the frost has killed the sugar cane in the South, and advises everybody to buy before he raises the price. This was very fair, but then, William was always very kind and liberal in his deal. Wahlstedt fairly makes the types yell—Fish! Fish!! Codfish!!! and Brandy cheese for sale. He didn't explain the connection, which was probably accidental, for George W. Peck was at that time playing the devil in the Register office. Bassett also offers to explain Spiritualism to those who will buy his wonderful Buffalo overshoes. It is a pity somebody didn't buy a pair of those shoes and give the world the benefit of that explanation. Mr. Bassett was a man of his word, but it is a little curious that his explanation never leaked out.

Congar & Day advertise a burning fluid for use in lamps at 70 cents per gallon. To-day we are mightily exercised (some of us) over the grinding monopoly of the Standard Oil Company for selling us coal oil at seven cents. Well, monopolies are fearsome creatures, but all the same, coal oil at seven cents a gallon will do very well till the electric light oppressors can do a still better job of grinding the poor. W. W. Card published the well-known lithographic map of Whitewater, the first of its kind.

Union School Teachers.—Rev. A. D. Hendrickson resigned as principal of the Union school after a very successful term of service. He was afterwards Superintendent of Schools for Waukesha county, and Superintendent of the State Reform School. He was a strong man and a good man. He was succeeded by H. L. Sherman as principal of our Whitewater schools, with Miss M. E. Billings assistant and Miss M. E. Roberts and Mary Montague intermediate; and Mary Hamilton in the old brick school house on Main street.

S. Wintermute remodeled his hotel, nearly or quite doubling its capacity, and making it about the best hotel west of Milwaukee. He christened it the Montour House and gave a grand opening party. Septer always kept a good hotel, for which Mrs. W. deserved a large share of credit. During this summer and fall, many new buildings were erected and the following from the Register of Oct. 23 about tells the story: "The number of new buildings going up in this town at present astonishes all who visit the place. Notwithstanding the tight times and scarcity of money, people seem to be building as much as ever, and our town is growing as rapidly now as at any time since it was first settled.

Manufactures.—S. Smith & Co. sold their stock of goods to L. A. Tanner in October. Wright & Cash began the manufacture of what was for several years the best one-horse cultivator used in the West. It was the first of a long line of improvements in the cultivation of corn, until, to-day, the farmer very nearly raises his crop from his front porch without going to the field more than once or twice a week to oil the machinery. Winchester, DeWolf & Co. were making plows, scrapers, sorghum mills, castings of many kinds, and doing general machine-shop work for whoever came. They employed thirty to forty men and did a large amount of work. Powers, Allen & Co. did a good business in the manufacture of stoves of various kinds. Wm. Birge was crowding the stone mill to its fullest capacity in making flour. Geo. Esterly's Reaper Works were steadily on the gain, adding to their shop-room and the number of men employed, improving their facilities for work as well as improving their reaper and mower, and though they sent out a largely increased number of machines they were still unable to supply the demand. They employed about one hundred men and as a consequence Reaperville needed a large number of new houses, and many of these were built this fall.

The Farmers' and Mechanics' Club held a very successful fair in September and was supposed to be in good condition to prosper for many years, but these hopes were not realized. The Whitewater brass band, led by T. W. Williams, was much more than a success

about this time. They not only gave us fine music, but were tireless in their almost unrewarded efforts to give every kind of public gatherings the benefit of the best they could do to entertain the crowd. They ought to have been better paid; they were appreciated, but that is rather too light a diet to live on year after year, though some of the boys are alive yet. They were a hardy lot.

The Severance & Williams' quadrille band furnished an immense amount of good music for dancing parties. This was all paid for under the old, old rule, "Those who dance must pay the fiddler." In this connection, there should be mentioned the Glee Class, as it was then generally known. It was trained and led by Joseph Hawes, and was always deserving of the hearty applause accorded to its rendering of the popular songs of that day. It was during this year that Prosper Cravath wrote his reminiscences of Whitewater bringing the history down to the close of 1857, and they were first published in the Register. The year 1858, was in nearly every respect a prosperous one for Whitewater. A pioneer festival was held at the new Montour House on Dec. 31st at which many of the original first settlers of this place and vicinity were present to enjoy the reunion. This was forty years ago and most of them have gone over to that country from which no pioneers return. Only a few of us who were rather kiddy then, remain to tell their story. Well, they did a heroic job, and may God preserve their memories long and well.

A few prices quoted Dec. 25 were as follows: Wheat 65 cents to $1.00, corn 60 cents to 70 cents; rye 65 cents to 70 cents, oats 32 cents to 35 cents, eggs 18 cents to 20 cents, sugar 10 cents to 14 cents, wood $2.50 to $3.00.

The village assessment for 1858 was: Real estate, $513,555; personal, $226,251.

THE YEAR 1859.

The Library Association.—The Library Association started out again this winter, holding the undivided attention of the general public. The officers this year were Daniel Graham, Edson Kellogg, Julius Birge, H. O. Montague and Edward Barber, names that would

easily carry honor in high places. These officers, with scores of talented friends and neighbors—for people then were friends and neighbors—arranged for public entertainments equal to any modern lecture course, at least everybody thought so then. The Whitewater Brass Band, and the Glee Class furnished more and better music than has ever disturbed the echoes of Whitewater since. They kept up with the procession in new music and did not forget the Auld Lang Syne. The following from the Register of that time sounds wonderfully modern. H. O. Montague read a tractate on the "General Policy of the United States Extending Its Territory," to which we understood the writer to be opposed—though he concluded by the recommendation of the scheme advocated by Douglas, "To take Cuba and negotiate with Spain afterwards." Thus we see there is nothing new under the sun, and, that Henry was a prophet without (much) honor in his own country and generation.

The labor troubles are not all new, or peculiar to the present time, for we find a call in the Register of Jan. 22 for a meeting in the old brick school house on Main street, of farmers and mechanics to consider ways and means to dispense with the services of that large class of middlemen who now live upon our earnings—signed by J. M. Clark, H. J. Starin, Giles Kinney and many others. An organization was effected, a constitution and by-laws adopted, officers duly elected—and, —and still the problem or, conundrum is, how shall labor secure its just (desirable) share of the profits? These were all good men but they died several generations too soon to hear the answer.

S. C. Hall & Co.'s packing house was in full blast packing pork and rendering lard. Hogs were then butchered by the farmers at home and sold as dressed pork. Mr. Robert Wilson opened a retail department there which during the packing season afforded everybody a chance to get tenderloin, pig's feet, etc., at very reasonable prices. The other markets at the time were kept by S. Dobell, and Summers & Wilkins. Our respected forefathers were not in the habit of going hungry, evidently.

Wintermute & Fuller opened a livery business in connection with the Montour House, which we believe has been in continuous existence through all the years since and is now carried on by Chap. Leffingwell. The other livery at that time was owned by Joel Clapp and kept in the old barn on North First street.

A poem written by Robert Sheills, one of the Library Association staff, for the occasion of a Burns' festival in Milwaukee, was published in the Register of Feb. 5. Re-reading this after forty years, it is almost worthy of Burns himself. He was employed as a civil engineer with the Grahams, married Alex. Graham's sister, and is still living in Neenah, Wis., a prosperous banker.

J. L. Pratt and two sons, John and Joe, with Parker Cole and A. Kinne, started with teams and camping outfits for the new land of gold—Pike's Peak. Others talked of going, but there is no record that they went that year. And we might as well record here as anywhere that these all came back before the summer ended, very rich—in experience.

The Cemetery Association held a sale of lots in the new Hillside on the 7th of May, and advertised that Frank Barnes would run a free boat across Cravath lake for all who wished to attend. This was pretty near the beginning of the Captain's excursion-boat business.

Business Activity.—S. C. Hall and R. Cheney tried the experiment of shipping a cargo of black walnut lumber via the lakes, Welland canal and St. Lawrence river to the markets of the Atlantic coast. It was reported a moderate success but not worth following farther.

From the Register of April 30th: "Our manufacturing establishments were never more busy than at the present time. Geo. Esterly is driving his reaper works to their fullest capacity and will not be able to meet his orders. Winchester, DeWolf & Co. are doing all they possibly can at their plow factory. Cole & Hunter's pottery is in full blast. The brick yards are doing a large business. The sash and blind factory is more than busy, crowded with work. Wm. Birge is run-

ning his mill to its utmost. Wright & Cash will be far behind their orders, the best they can do, at building cultivators. Geo. Dann is turning out a large amount of cooper work. J. L. Pratt is making wagons and getting rich every few days, and the Register office, ditto, except the shekels."

Winchester, DeWolf & Co. opened a large general store under the generalship of that veteran, J. S. Partridge, and opened also a new departure in advertising, actually using a whole column of display type.

City Government.—At the village election held May 3d, N. M. Littlejohn was re-elected president, with Geo. G. Williams, P. H. Brady, D. C. Trippe, and D. S. Cook, trustees; L. H. Rann, clerk; E. F. Tarr, marshal; Edward Barber, treasurer. The following items are taken from the treasurer's first annual report:

Receipts.

Saloon licenses	$ 430.00
Sundry licenses	54.00
Village pound	13.00
Tax levy	300.00
Fines collected	171.97
Delinquent sidewalks	90.45
Total	$1,050.42

Disbursements.

Total	$ 970.31
Bal. in Treas	80.11

Not a very extravagant government.

The first Fire Wardens were appointed by the Council May 17, and were: O. Montague, E. W. Pratt, and R. McBeath. All good men and true, but hardly as active on foot as our fire laddies of '99.

Sorghum Mill.—Winchester, DeWolf & Co. gave an exhibition of their new sorghum mill, grinding up hoop poles—borrowed, of course, from Geo. Dann—and the tough hickory poles were ground up very successfully. Quite a number of interested spectators signed a glowing recommendation of its merits, etc., etc. Among them appears the name of the present writer. The

mill, however, was not much of a success as a sugar-cane grinder, though it did grind Dann's hoop poles beautifully. At the same time and place, one H. H. Wilds, of Koshkonong, exhibited some sorghum sugar.(?) Great was sorghum in those days, but neither Mr. Wilds or anyone else has ever found any sugar in it since that day. The first two or three years, the syrup was really fair to good, but it soon deteriorated to—fair to bad, where it has since maintained a very steady reputation. Some previous experiments had been made by some of our pioneers to extract "sweetening" from watermelons, sweet corn, etc., none of which were very cheerful—or profitable.

Mr. A. F. Knox, Leonard Smith, H. Hemenway, the Clarks, and possibly some others about this time began to import from Vermont some choice fine-wool Merino sheep. Some of these blooded animals brought fabulous prices and for several years commanded more attention than any other stock. Whitewater became a center for choice sheep and also a large wool market. May 21st winter wheat sold for $1.35 to $1.50 and spring wheat $1.10 to $1.25.

The last of May, a lot of "our boys" went over to Lake Koshkonong with tents, boats, fishing tackle, provisions, etc.—the etc. was rather in excess, it was said —to have a general good time, and without a doubt they had it. Since then the annual outing of the Fun Hunters has been a matter of course—with some etc. mixed in.

The Register of May the 28th says: "Our village now presents every indication of a rapid growth in the future. We have reason to believe that the amount of building to be done here this year will far exceed that of any preceding one. Already many new brick and wooden buildings are nearing completion, and the business has but just commenced. The carpenters and masons are all busy at good prices, and the lumber dealers are having a heavy trade. These are all evidences of prosperity and we are glad to chronicle a return of good times." Another item, same date, "One firm sold over $500 worth of goods at retail last Saturday. Who says advertising don't pay?"

Crombie, Francis & Co. dissolved and were succeeded by H. L. & G. G. Francis at the old stand. The old mill-dam crossing was reconstructed, rebuilt and replaced by and into a permanent bridge crossing with railed sidewalk, much as it is at the present day. It was a much-needed improvement. The old, covered railroad bridge was also built this year. Beemer's news stand in the postoffice became one of the institutions of the young city.

Trippe & Crombie built the paper mill this year, on the site of the old Trippe saw mill. This was a valuable improvement and added another source of revenue and strength to the community.

Gallt & Cole succeed W. W. Cole & Co., and proceed at once to do a large and prosperous business. An item in the Register of Oct. 8th warns the public of a dangerous place at the corner of First and Main Streets, and says that several people have lost a good deal of money there lately—and further, that one John M. Crombie was more than suspected of having got it in exchange for his new and cheap goods.

The annual conference of the Methodist Church was held here this year, Bishop Ames presiding, and of course a large number of Methodist preachers ate their annual chicken pie in Whitewater. This was a somewhat notable event in church matters. Bishop Ames was a born leader of men, and battled in the front rank of the Old Guard, who really believed that all men would be free.

J. Haubert opened his harness, trunk, and upholstering shop on Main Street. This shop came to Whitewater to stay. Mr. Haubert was an industrious, capable man and a thoroughly good workman. Mr. D. Whitehead still has one of Haubert's first double harnesses, and David says it is a good harness yet, after forty years' of hard service. H. R. Charles is the direct successor of Mr. Haubert and still makes good harnesses, and all the rest.

About this time, an effort was made to lay a sidewalk from the postoffice to the depot, and several men were found who did not think it necessary. It wouldn't do to be too extravagant. One mossback growled that

that if that Bill DeWolf could have his way he would make people build walks all over the city. The expense would have to be stopped somewhere!

The Wheat Growers Bank was set in operation over Crombie's store, corner of Main and First Streets. Samuel McCord was president and H. F. Wetherby cashier. The Bank of Whitewater became a bank of issue and the new bills were soon in circulation. They bore the names of A. E. Ray, president, and T. Hempel, cashier.

Powers, Allen & Co. became P. H. Brady & Co., and continued the same business in the same place. First-class stoves of all kinds.

The Library Association opened another season the 1st of November, as popular as ever. The program of each succeeding meeting seeming to be just a little better than any preceding one. The music is popular and the audiences would be larger if the hall was larger and the indefatigable Joe Bowers responded at once, "It shall be, gentlemen." And it was in due time.

Cold Summer.—The year 1859 was peculiar in many respects, but on the whole was a fairly prosperous one for Whitewater. Nearly all our business men came through the financial troubles in good shape; all our factories were doing their utmost to fill orders; our mechanics were all busy and well paid, and everybody was hopeful and about as happy as people generally are. The summer had been the coldest on record. Frost was seen every month of the season and a good many gardens and some crops were very near a failure. There was very little sound corn gathered that year. The latter part of the season was also very dry and winter set in with a general scarcity of water. I have no recollection that there was any real suffering on these accounts, but there was a deal of talk about bran bread and prairie hay as a last resort.

Political Portents.—There was beginning to be manifest a tremendous feeling of anxiety and foreboding as to the future of national politics. Very few, even of life-long Democrats, were hardy enough to appprove all of President Buchanan's administration. The Register in an editorial of that time said: "The time has

come when the great contest that is to decide whether this nation and this government are to be devoted to the interests of freedom or slavery, must be settled—at the ballot box if possible, but it must be settled. We believe the great heart of our people pulses for freedom, and that the election of 1860 will prove it." This voiced the almost unanimous sentiment of the people of Whitewater. John Brown was executed on Dec. 2d by the very unwise governor of old Virginia, and while his poor body died on that rude gallows, perhaps justly, and was sent to a dishonorable grave, his great white soul was sent marching into immortality. His raid was clearly unlawful and unjustifiable, but his death sent a thrill through the hearts of all liberty-loving people that will never cease to vibrate. "His soul goes marching on." The more thoughtful men of the time dreaded the future, yet braced themselves for the evidently coming contest. And so closed 1859.

THE YEAR 1860.

This year opened with many peculiar conditions, but few of which were very noteworthy of themselves, and yet together they influenced everybody in a greater or less degree. There was considerable local speculation—not at all a modern boom—but an evident willingness to believe in the future of Whitewater. Property changed hands pretty freely. One cause of this was the quality of the money; nobody wanted to keep money that might be worthless to-morrow, and as prices were fair to good, nearly everybody had some money that he was willing to let the other fellow have—on favorable terms—to himself of course—about 12 per cent. On the whole it might fairly be said that so far as our local interests are concerned we were—prosperous.

Gallt & Cole advertise the new coal oil, kerosene then, at $1.25 per gallon. This was the first coal oil sold here and it was rather steep in price.

T. D. Weeks, then a young man, came to Whitewater to practice law, and from that day to this has not changed his mind or his vocation. He has put in the better part of a life time in steady, honorable, successful work. He has filled places of trust and honor in a

creditable manner and ought to be made governor before he is too old—far stranger things have happened.

The Library Association continued popular and the dear public continued to fill the hall. Jan. 21st, the question for debate was, "Resolved, That the signs of the time indicate a dissolution of the union." Affirmative, R. Cheney, Edson Kellogg; negative, P. Cravath, N. M. Littlejohn. There were giants in those days. And the union was not dissolved that night.

The Wisconsin Fruit Growers' Association held a session here Jan. 22d and 23d, and seemed both hopeful of and determined to make Wisconsin a fruit-growing state. It has been found out, however, that associations are not as successful in raising fruit as they are in raising expectations. This applies to some other things as well as fruit raising.

A Republican Club was organized, taking for its motto Webster's memorable words, "The union now and forever, one and inseparable," but fully determined to secure the election of a Republican president in place of James Buchanan. It was a local expression of the sentiment that was surely crystalizing throughout the great, free north-land.

The Wide-Awakes.—The Lincoln Wide-Awake Brigade was organized with enthusiasm. Uniforms and lamps were procured and nightly drills in various tactical movements were the order. The officers were, president, J. S. Partridge; vice-presidents, E. L. Caswell, J. M. Judd; secretary, J. H. Pratt; treasurer, Robt. McBeath; commander, J. L. Pratt; captains, C. E. Curtice, J. B. Schrom, S. T. Jefford, Michael Fitz. Well, it was a jolly, enthusiastic outfit, and we drilled and burned our fingers trimming smoky lamps—and—were happy. Later in the season, we all went to Madison, over one hundred strong, in freight cars, to hear Wm. H. Seward on the Irrepressible Conflict. There were probably seven or eight thousand Wide-Awakes in the state park around the capitol building to hear the great statesman. Some heard him and many could not, but when Whitewater's singer, Joseph Hawes, sang his original campaign song with its expressive Ri-too-ri-alloo chorus, there were none who couldn't hear and

none who didn't shout. There was enthusiasm, yes, and there was more. It was all premonitory of the more terrible ranks of war that were to be so grandly forthcoming before another year should pass. Capt. C. E. Curtice of the Wide-Awakes went out as the first army captain from Whitewater, and many of the members went with him.

Alex.Graham secured a contract to build a new railroad in the Island of Cuba and went out there this fall, taking men and some outfit with him.

Joe Bower proceeded to enlarge the hall as he promised last year, and as soon as it was done the people filled it as promptly as aforetime when it was smaller. Among other valuable improvements, were J. J. Starin's brick residence on Main Street and G. H. Foster's on Center Street. Thos. Webb erected the block on the corner of Center and Second Streets. The Methodists built on quite a large section on the rear of their church, giving them more room, which was much needed. The enlarged and renovated church reopened on Thursday, Dec. 27th, afternoon and evening, with appropriate and interesting ceremonies.

Shinplaster Currency.—The silver change in current use in some mysterious way suddenly disappeared. Nobody seemed to understand why, or what had become of it. Everybody denied having any, but it was generally believed that most of them—prevaricated about it. One thing was certain, it was gone; and there was no alternative but to do the best we could without it. It was very inconvenient and often awkward. Various devices were tried, and the one generally adopted was to issue a kind of due ticket "good for five cents," "ten cents," "twenty-five cents," etc. These were pretty generally interchangeable among home dealers and were just lots better than no change at all. The year 1860 closed with a good record for Whitewater, being, all things considered, the most generally and liberally prosperous of any in its history.

THE YEAR 1861.

Secession Impending.—The year 1861 opened with many forebodings as to the national future. South

Carolina had seceded—or said she had—and her citizens had actually made war on the nation by seizing everything belonging to the government outside of Fort Sumter. Nearly everybody hereabouts manifested a sort of grim determination to wait as patiently as possible for the 4th of March, when by the grace of God and the grit of Abraham Lincoln there would be a different order of affairs—and it came none too soon. Locally, matters were prosperous and generally very hopeful. The good crops of 1860 and the prevailing good prices were almost unprecedented. Seemingly, a good Providence had prepared us for the stress and strain of war times in a signal manner. So far as Whitewater was concerned no better time could have been chosen to withstand the calamity of war. There was often heard a common expression of a common sentiment, "It might as well come now as ever." This was not specially patriotism, it was a prevailing conviction in view of all the facts.

Quite a general interest was awakened in some plans to establish a school of high grade. This was to be christened "The Home Collegiate Institute." A very elaborate plan of organization was adopted and everything was done that could be thought of—except to do it. It was very satisfactorily shown, proved on paper, that it ought to be done, but there was a fatal hesitancy about determining that it should be done. However, it was all good preparatory work toward securing a State Normal School when the proper time should come.

The Kokomo Bank.—Some spurious notes of the Kokomo Bank of Whitewater were sent here for redemption about this time. As near as this writer can learn, Daniel Graham was president and J. M. Archbald cashier, and their office was over the old red brick where the First National now stands. Kokomo was in Indiana, and Aug. Scoville had been in some way interested in a bank there, the plate of whose bills he had preserved, and it was too costly to be entirely useless, so it was altered from Indiana to Whitewater, Wis. The concern was not very popular or profitable and was soon wound up, honorably so far as now known. Mr. W. L. R. Stewart has a well preserved

daguerreotype of the cashier, J. M. Archbald. The bills of this and other banks at this time were secured by the integrity of the men who owned the bank stock and, odd as it may seem now, the security was generally good. Financial disaster overtook some of them as it did other men, but very few of them were dishonest.

Spiritualism struck some parts of the community about this time with considerable force. The Fay Brothers giving some interesting and mysterious performances, some parties believed them to be genuine spirit revelations while others quite as emphatically believed them to be a silly humbug. It is very unfortunate that we have no court competent to settle such differences —and so they will most likely be passed on to the next generation—unsettled.

H. A. Conger's nursery had grown by this time to be no small factor in the business of Whitewater. It was located on the block southwest of the Normal School, between Main and Highland and Whiton and Prince streets, with some other outlying plats. He issued a very fair catalogue this year, listing nearly all the desirable kinds of fruit trees, shrubs, etc.

R. S. Ensign opened a new general store on the north side of Main Street, and L. A. Tanner & Co. dissolved, Mr. Coggswell retiring and Mr. Tanner continuing the business at the old stand. At the paper mill the firm became Crombie & Gantley, and they turned out large quantities of book and news paper. Gallt & Cole became Gallt & Caine, and the new firm, like the old one, went on doing a large and profitable business. S. D. Wright's marble works were very much enlarged and found customers all over the southern part of the state and even reached some trade in Iowa.

F. B. Brewer, for some thirty years now Dr. Brewer, became principal of the village schools, and instituted a more systematic plan of conducting and grading them. Under his administration, they attained a degree of success quite beyond that of previous years.

Deacon Wm. Potts, a leading and most respected member of the Baptist Church, and equally so of the community, died suddenly in his carriage on the way from Elkhorn, April the 4th.

Bad Money Growing Worse.—Paper money became more than troublesome, it was dangerous. In May the Chicago banks threw out a large majority of Wisconsin money, and Milwaukee discounted over twenty interior banks 25 per cent. Nobody knew whether the stuff he had in his pockets was money or gun wadding till he tried to pass it. If it was money it would pass—maybe! if it was gun wadding it would not "go off" at all. Whoever got hold of any hard money instantly salted it down, as the saying then was, against whatever might happen. And the State Legislature passed an act suspending specie payment, which was theoretically all right, whatever Uncle Sam might think about it, but practically didn't amount to a hill of beans, for those few who had any—salted down—wouldn't let it go, and those who had none couldn't get it.

First War Meeting.—April 18th, the war had actually begun; the rebels had fired on Fort Sumter, and a large and enthusiastic union meeting was held in the Metropolitan Hall. Patriotic speeches were made by P. Cravath, R. Cheney, N. S. Murphy, and others. Whitewater was sound and loyal to the very core. Party was practically forgotten and all classes united in expressions of loyalty and patriotism. During the week following, war was the only thing Whitewater had to eat, drink, or wear, and a full company of the best men we had were enrolled and the officers chosen. Capt. C. W. Steele had preserved the original enlistment paper as signed by them all at that time, till, a few years ago, it mysteriously disappeared from a private drawer in his residence together with some other war papers. The following is the original roster:

First Company of Volunteers.—Captain, C. E. Curtice; lieutenants, first, L. L. Kiser, second, L. H. Rann; sergeants, first, A. E. Chaffee, second, J. C. Birge, third, W. Harrington, fourth, H. M. Buckley; corporals, first, W. R. Farnsworth, second, James Mead, third, Henry Hicks, fourth, E. J. Pratt; drummer, Jacob Haller; privates, M. O. Sentenn, G. H. Beckwith, J. F. Brown, William Ludeman, Thomas Gill, E. C. McLaughlin, Charles Hewitt, Isaac Miller, Charles W. Steele, J. M. Hallowes, J. J. Criger, E. D. Converse, Stephen Prady,

G. P. Criger, J. C. McManus, H. S. Nyce, H. M. Dake, W. G. Barber, Henry Freyer, B. M. Ensign, Ben Sentenn, C. S. Lovejoy, L. W. Sentenn, C. S. Branch, N. C. Francisco, Clinton Child, N. A. Kinney, W. H. Brewer, J. H. Buck, D. E. Simmons, Charles Green, Charles Vodrie, Ole B. Oleson, Nelson Johnson, J. S| Gibbs, Frank Kief, J. G. Rowe, Franklin Robinson, W. M. King, Charles Kuhn, J. R. Hackett, F. B. Hamilton, O. O. Allen, George Williams, Alonzo Meracle, M. E. Boswell, J. G. Conklin, John Boltz, Philander Allen, F. L. Smith, S. Duffy, William Dake, Gulliver Oleson, M. P. Webb, Wm. Groshoney, James Ennis, Geo. Holden, Silas C. Phelps, George McVeigh, A. W. Atwood, W. G. Esterly, Samuel Bidwell, Mike McManus, P. A. Castle, Lucius Palmer, Nelson Nielson, Frank Faust, J. A. Chamberlin, F. McGuire, James Scott, Oscar Dunbar, Alexander Craig, H. West, Hiram King, Jr., James Adams, James Kidd, Henry C. Powers, O. K. Eaton, Anson Willis, B. A. Callahan, Peter Hunter, M. Duncomb, Jacob Phillips, J. G. Castle, Austin Kettleson, Sam. Stillman, Jno. Tessien, S. C. Smith, Jas. Scott, Ashbell Patterson, Moses Ranney. One hundred and three officers and men. Some of these were rejected on final examination and did not go out with the company, others being enlisted in their places.

A large subscription fund was raised to give aid to the soldiers' families if it should be needed, and the town voted to raise $1,000 by tax for the same purpose. There was no end of enthusiasm, indeed there was little else just then worthy of historical notice.

The spring was cold and backward and crops as well as gardens looked sickly and doubtful the 1st of June, but later they came on all right and a full average crop was harvested.

Thurlow W. Brown, the editor of the Wisconsin Chief and great apostle of temperance, gave a lecture in Metropolitan Hall under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance. Mr. Brown was a popular lecturer and was in deadly earnest as a temperance lecturer.

Dr. Hoadley, who had pulled teeth here for several years, took H. H. Greenman as a partner, and for several years they tinkered the teeth of the community. They were both good dentists for their time, but people

did not buy as many store teeth then as they do now. E. Roethe also took a partner in the furniture business and the firm was Streng & Roethe.

The First Boys go to the War.—June 15th, Company A, Fourth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, Capt. C. E. Curtice, was ordered into camp at Racine. On Friday night, a public meeting was held in the hall to give the boys a good send-off. Capt. Curtice was presented with a fine officer's sword and sash, and Mrs. Geo. Esterly gave the company a fine silk flag. This flag is still in the possession of Capt. C. W. Steele, it having been with the company in all their campaigns for over four years. The departure, Saturday morning, was an event never to be forgotten by the thousands of young and old who fairly crowded the streets to see the boys "go to the war." It was a sad and yet it was a unanimously patriotic crowd. Many of the brave fellows never came back, but a few are still living with us.

The Whitewater Lyceum (late Library Association) secured the beginning of a public library. R. McBeath was chosen librarian, and it was opened for drawing and exchanging books on Friday evenings.

New sidewalks were built on the south side of Center Street from Church Street each and from Main Street to the Hillside Cemetery on the East Side. This was considered liberal.

In August, the Register office was moved to the third story in Hall's block, entrance on First Street. This was one of the ways the Register got up in the world. George W. Peck and Harvey Houghton pulled the lever of the old Washington press, and George Beckwith carried water up the two flight of stairs to wash the forms and keep things clean. Beemer moved his news stand from the postoffice room to his new room in Metropolitan Block and greatly enlarged his stock of notions, while a young man by the name of E. H. Norton opened a new stock at the old stand. The postoffice stand was quite a convenience to some and a general nuisance to others. One Wm. Ladd opened a barber shop next door west of the Exchange Hotel, and the local editor remarked dryly that perhaps by close shaving the Ladd might succeed.

CAPT. J. L. PRATT

Rufus Cheney was appointed a paymaster in the volunteer army with the rank of major, and this is how he became Major Cheney; but he always was the best Sunday school superintendent Whitewater ever had. Pitt Cravath, George Marsh, James Birge, E. M. Conger and G. W. Esterly were the Whitewater boys in attendance at the State University.

A Second Military Company.—Early in September, J. L. Pratt was commissioned to raise another company of volunteers from Whitewater, which he proceeded at once to do, enlisting for three years or during the war.

Capt. Pratt's company, afterwards Co. H, Thirteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, was ordered into camp at Janesville on Oct. 30. The officers were: Captain, J. L. Pratt; lieutenants, first, Chas. S. Noyes, second, Robert Glover; sergeants, first, C. C. Graham; second, Geo. H. Beckwith, third, Wm. Marskie, fourth, Josiah Pattison; fifth, Nat. Weed, Jr.; corporals, first, G. N. Manning, second, Simon Henry, third, Hiram Boyington, fourth, Ed. J. Pratt, fifth, A. J. Smith; musicians,Ozias Elliott, Melvin Webb, Andrew Larson, Chas. Ellis, James Slocum, Joel Pratt; privates, A. L. Castle, Harvey Gunderson, Fred Herzog, Wm. Milne, M. L. McCarthy, Simon Nelson, Martin Oleson, D. E. Perkins, Paul Ramberg, J. C. Salverson, Dan. Yeomans, O. A. Cheney, David Collins, Frank Anderson, J. W. Gilson, Wm. H. Hall, S. O. Larkin, John McGee, Oliver Nelson, Ole Oleson, Wm. Roloff, Wm. Parsons, Robt. Smith, L. H. Rann, W. H. Andrews, W. J. Cook, John Collins, C. L. Clark, Peter Elphick, A. Marskie, J. E. Coakley, Ira Webb, J. M. Burnham, G. S. Case, J. S. Herson, S. H. Trude, J. P. Barney, J. M. Babcock, Henry McGowan, A. P. Boyington, Robt. Bridge, John Hannah, Marius Fuller, Frank Hudson, David Seeley, M. W. Weed, N. Weicher, John F. Moore, A. Stillman, Edward Shield, Louis Shield, John Barber, Wm. Foote, C. H. Klitzkie, Jed. Carnes, D. Binkert, John Jennings, Wm. Williams, Henry Smith, Richard Dwight, Adam McDonald, Myron Hollis, S. T. Sherman, H. H. Porter, L. C. Welton, E. H. Smith—85 officers and men.

Business Houses.—The business of the town at the close of this year was represented by the following

firms: General stores, Cook & Shedd, A. Wahlstedt, Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart, Rice & Peck, B. A. Jenkins, Gallt & Caine, L. A. Tanner, T. A. Stevens, H. L. Francis; groceries, Thomas Bassett, F. B. Hall, J. A. Ferrall, J. S. Lathrop, T. A. Stevens, R. S. Ensign; jewelers, John T. Smith, Victor Egloff; clothing and merchant tailors,R. McBeath, M. Herbst, J. Stalker, C. Gunderson & Co., A. Sentenn & Storms, C. E. Robbins; boots(shoes, and shoemakers, G. & P. Trautmann, D. Frost, Niels Nelson, A. F. Knight; furniture, coffins, etc., H. F. Thiele, Henry Dierfeld, Streng & Roethe, J. P. Cutler; banks, Merchants' Exchange Bank of Whitewater; millinery, Mary McBeath, Mrs. S. A. Ferris, Mrs. J. F. Coss, Mrs. E. Cummings; hardware, S. Clark, Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart; drugs, Conger & Day, Dr. J. Deichman; dentists, Hoadley & Greenman, H. S. Klein; bakery and restaurant, Towsley Brothers; meat markets, Dobell & Lawrence, E. C. Hall; manufacturers, Geo. Esterly, Winchester, DeWolf & Co., Whitewater Mill, Planing Mill, Chaffee Bros., P. H. Brady & Co., Whitewater Paper Mill, John Scholl's cooper shop, Geo. Dann's cooper shop, Cole & Hunter, pottery; physicians, Drs. J. A. Clarke, Willard Rice, E. G. Horton, D. D. Belknap. Exit 1861 with thirteen saloons in full blast.

Soldiers' Aid Societies were organized here and in adjoining towns, tributary to the National Ladies' Aid, and patriotism was not confined to the male persuasion then more than now.

The year 1861 drew to a close with a great deal of uncertainty in almost everything. He was either a brave man, a fool, or a prophet who would venture to predict any solution of the terrible war situation of the financial troubles of the country. The only thing in sight was to hold on by grim faith in God and Abraham Lincoln and wait for time and Providence to clear away the clouds. So far as purely local business was concerned, this year had been on the whole fairly prosperous, yet there were fears and doubts about the future that made everyone cautious.

THE YEAR 1862.

With the new year, came news of the death of the first soldier, George Chalfant, hospital steward of the Fourth Regiment, at Baltimore, Md., of cholera morbus. Gen. Tom Thumb and wife, the noted dwarfs, made world-famous by the great showman, P. T. Barnum, visited Whitewater and gave an entertainment in Metropolitan Hall. It was not a very great occasion, but perhaps worthy of mention. The Lyceum—Library Association—still held the right-of-way, giving popular programs to full houses.

The Thirteenth Regiment at Janesville.—The Thirteenth Regiment was still in camp at Janesville, and like more modern soldier boys getting very impatient to be sent to the front. They left Janesville Jan. 18, for Leavenworth, Kan. That Janesville camp was a useless outrage that seems utterly incredible in the light of after-experience. To take a regiment of men from comfortable homes within easy reach and put them into cloth tents on an open, bleak prairie and hold them there for three months in the dead of a Wisconsin winter should have subjected some one to penalties worse than being criticised. And yet at the time there was little or no disposition to do even that.

There was a heavy fall of snow early in this year, in many places too deep for comfortable use. There was good sleighing most of the winter and it was used to good purpose.

Company A., Fourth Regiment, Capt. Curtice, was reported in good health and spirits at Baltimore, Md., and Company H. of the Thirteenth Regiment, Capt. Pratt, at Fort Scott, Kan., with many sick and in the hospital. These reports came home in February.

Notwithstanding the topsy-turvy condition of politics, finance, and the absence of so many in the army, our home factories, and indeed most of our local business interests began the year fairly hopeful. There was a general disposition to be neighborly, accommodating, and helpful among all classes, which went very far towards tiding over what otherwise might have been ugly times.

A. F. Knox and L. C. Smith sold some blooded merino ewes for $30 per head, while good native cows could be bought at $15 to $25. Fine-wooled sheep held a strong lead over the dairy business at that time.

Dr. E. G. Horton went out as a surgeon with the Thirteenth Regiment, an item that might have been recorded sooner, as he went when the regiment did. After serving five years, he came home utterly broken in health, never to know another well day. He is still living, having given thirty-five years more of shipwrecked life to his country. Early in March, came news of the second death among our boys in the army, that of Adam McDonald, of Capt. Pratt's company. And after these two there came a long, long list of as good boys as ever wore the blue.

A. J. Cheney the First County Superintendent.—The county superintendency of the public schools was inaugurated with A. J. Cheney, of Delavan, as superintendent. The first examination of teachers in Whitewater was held April 21. It was quite different from the old township examination. Three years before this, a certain pedagogue went to one of these township superintendents for a certificate to teach in his town. He was a farmer and was found digging potatoes in the old-fashioned way, with a hand hoe, and proposed that the teacher should join him and dig potatoes while the examination went on. This was agreed to and the examination and digging went on together. Both were satisfactory and the teacher got his certificate. This is history, for the writer was there.

The spring season was late, cold, and too wet to permit early work on farm or in gardens, and the first of May found but little done at out-door work.

Gen. Grant began to be heard from in the dispatches from the army. Letters from our boys in the Fourth and Thirteenth Regiments were cheerful and hopeful, though there was a good deal of sickness. The Fourth was at Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Thirteenth was still in Kansas—what of them were not in the hospitals.

As the spring advanced and the weather came into line with the season, everything became more hopeful.

There was a good deal of new building, and many real improvements were undertaken. Gardens came forward in promising shape, and the many shade trees that had been set during the spring nearly all grew finely. It was about this time that people generally acquired the habit of setting the trees that have made the streets of Whitewater so pleasant.

Capt. J. L. Pratt of Co. H, Thirteenth Regiment, finding the life of a soldier too hard for a man of his age, resigned his commission and returned to civil life. His son, Joe Pratt, being under military age, was discharged and also returned home.

Hoop skirts — ladies' hoop skirts — this season reached the climax of their expansion, and ridiculous as they were in their fullness, the ladies of Whitewater all wore them to the utmost.

Prof. F. B. Brewer, principal of the city schools, was stricken with some kind of palsy June 20, and his work was carried to the end of the year by Capt. E. B. Gray. Julius C. Birge ran the flouring mill this year himself and proved his right to success in life—business life—which none of his neighors had ever doubted, and which right he still maintains, though he has been wrong in living away from Whitewater all these years. It was said of George Dann at this time that he was (w)hooping up a staving business at his cooper shops, and was probably heading in barrels of money. He employed a large force of men.

Thos. Bassett, N. S. Murphey, and L. H. Rann entered into some kind of a secret conspiracy about this time and suddenly disappeared—left for parts unknown, leaving the boys to run their respective business operations. For some time, it was a mystery what had become of them. They returned, however, just in time to save their property and reputations, explaining, rather lamely, that they had only taken a vacation. This was not satisfactory, but it was all the world ever knew about the mystery.

Some Free Thinkers—so they called themselves—held a grove meeting at the old fair grounds, Aug. 2d. It was not a great success, and about the only thing they made plain was that they were free to think as

they pleased, while other people were not, unless they agreed with them. Nothing very new about that—or free either.

A Third Company Enlisted.—The Register of Aug. 1 says: "Things are bad enough in the way of news from the army. There is nothing to encourage lovers of the union cause. Let us, however, continue to hope, fear God, and enlist as fast as we can." The great call of President Lincoln for 600,000 more men startled everybody. A great meeting was held in Metropolitan Hall and large subscriptions to a bounty fund were started and everybody was tested to the last ounce. Only a few were found wanting. E. S. Redington was commissioned and began recruiting Whitewater's third company. The various bounties offered for volunteers amounted to $150. Mary V. Hall offered to take the place of any clerk who would go, she to receive out of his wages only enough to pay her board. Her example was quickly followed by Myra L. Dann, Mary Esterly, Mary Ellis, Kate B. Jessup, Louise J. Starin, Jennie L. Cole, Clara Kellogg, Mary Montague, Augusta Griffin, Lilla O'Connor, Mary A. Clark, Fannie L. Dann, Julia A. Harris, Sarah Mulks, and Maggie Starin. These girls meant business and it made some of the clerks—sick. It is needless to say that Capt. Redington's company was quickly filled up. The Register office up to this time had sent nine of the best boys who ever stood at a case into the ranks of the volunteer army.

The Mechanics' Club having at that time thirty members sent thirteen of them into the service. Among them were Oscar Smith, John Grant and C. W. Rockwell, who are still on duty in Whitewater's veteran corps. It is utterly impossible to put on paper any adequate idea of how deeply our community was stirred by the experiences of those war times. Capt. E. B. Gray was commissioned major of the Twenty-eighth Regiment and put Capt Redington's and Capt. Kenyon's companies—the latter of La Grange—into regular daily battalion drill preparatory to going into active service.

Roster of Capt. Redington's Company.—The following is the company roster as it then stood of Capt. Redington's company:

Officers of company—captain, E. S. Redington; lieutenants, first, H. N. Hayes, second, James M. Mead; sergeants, first, Henry H. Watts, second, Jas. H. Hodge, Jr., third, Frank C. Myer, fourth, Jerome Magill, fifth, Wm. G. Palmer; corporals, first, C. W. Rockwell, second, Henry Busch, third, Aaron Mountford, fourth, G. E. Nickerson, fifth, Oscar Smith, sixth, Gilbert Oleson, seventh, A. W. Hayes, eighth, T. J. Dancy; privates, G. L. Lawrence, Chas. W. Schroble, James B. Schrom, Patrick Keenan, Edward Troy, Jas. J. Caward, Isaac Nelson, J. H. Myers, Donald Henderson, Wm. J. Dawley, Peter J. Nelson, W. D. Dowling, W. S. Branch, John Taylor, C. A. Hendrickson, John McCready, E. Carver, John Grant, Chas. Kuhn, Thomas Ducey, Hiram Edwards, Thomas Wray, J. W. Harrison, J. H. Lasher, Patrick Timlin, Geo. Trautmann, Henry Lingemann, George Corkett, Joseph Weiss, D. M. Goodrich, John Schultz, Thos. Conry, Andrew Selight, Chas. A. Homes, Chas. Ware, N. Wheelock, Cyrus Yeomans, Robt. Frith, Francis Kinney, J. H. Torrey, Fred Hoage, Jacob Thomas, M. Ostermar, Chas. Bennett, Frank Faust, Chris. Scholl, Isaac Miller, Jas. Quirk, A. L. Strong, Chas. Z. Price, S. A. Baldwin, Edward Dann, Jacob Hiller, Benjamin Fisk, Geo. M. Winslow, Lewis Carpenter, John Fero, H. N. Wilkinson, James Taylor, Geo. F. Tucker, J. Kynaston, Samuel Clement, J. F. Brown, John Early, Johnson Curtis, S. H. Clark, J. W. Rogers, H. W. Pester, J. R. Bowen, Henry Hicks, Michael Larkin, Chas. Hodson, Silas Connell, Peter Dulman, Jacob Walker, Mathias Smith, Silas Fero, Geo. De Groat, Thos. Stinson, Henry A. Cox, Chas. Scholl, Henry Gunn, Geo. Hills, George Criger, C. H. Simpson, H. Trowbridge, H. F. Smith, E. S. Calkins, J. A. Nelson, G. W. Eaton, DeWitt Palmer, Geo. E. Dye, Jesse Hare.

Capt. C. E. Curtice, Major Cheney, and Surgeon Horton were home on sick leave. Dr. L. K. Hawes was appointed surgeon in the Twenty-fourth Regiment, and Dr. J. P. Wheeler assistant surgeon for the Twenty-eighth Regiment. The Twenty-eighth went into camp

at Milwaukee Sept. 15. Ira C. Day was appointed U. S. assessor for the district, and Milton Rowley received the appointment of collector of internal revenue and income taxes.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, at a special town meeting it was voted to levy a tax of $6,000 for the support of the families sending volunteers upon whom they were dependent into the army. This was administered by the town supervisors, and was in addition to large liberality already raised by subscription. Late in September, came the great proclamation by the great Lincoln. This was recognized by every loyal heart as the beginning of the end. Indeed it seemed to put heart into the commonest events of life and to give assurance to our future—public and private. The sin of the people was taken away and a great thanksgiving went up from every loyal heart.

The Continentals, a quartette of trained and excellent singers, contributed not a little to the interest of patriotic meetings this fall by their campaign songs. T. M. Watson was basso and T. Martin Towne the tenor.

Julius C. Birge was chosen president of the Lyceum and E. D. Converse secretary, but the overwhelming war excitement cast all lighter entertainment into the background—there were some good programs given but they failed to attract very much attention. A rousing teachers' meeting was held in connection with the fall examination of teachers. A. J. Cheney, the county superintendent, was the leading spirit, aided by the state superintendent, J. L. Pickard, and others.

Musical.—H. R. Palmer conducted a musical convention in the Baptist Church, closing with a concert in the hall. In after years, Mr. Palmer became noted as a leader and composer.

A new Glee Club made its first formal bow before the Lyceum this fall. It was composed of H. H. Greenman, Mrs. Greenman, Mrs. F. B. Brewer, and Raymond Shepard, a combination of voice and talent hard to equal in those days. John Vincent came into possession of the postoffice news stand, in a small way. This was one week, the next week Geo. W. Peck, late bad

boy, later governor of Wisconsin, etc., bought the concern and intended to there lay the foundations of a great fortune. His intentions were good enough, but unfortunately like many other good intentions, were never realized, and but for his failure he might never have been governor. The bad boy part he was always sure of without much doubt.

S. M. Billings was elected sheriff of Walworth county. He had been a terror to evil-doers as constable, deputy sheriff, etc., for several years previous.

The Gloom of War Time.—This year came to a close with nothing special to record beyond the general anxiety concerning our boys in the army. Almost every family was represented in the ranks by one or more of its members or near relatives. Not a few already mourned the loss of those who would never come home again, and all were anxious yet fearful to hear the next news that might come. It was not pleasant. Local business was fair, wages good, help scarce, and money rather uncertain, but good for 12 per cent, when any borrowing was indulged in. Considerable building had been done during the summer and some sidewalks had been laid. The schools were in excellent condition under Prof. F. B. Brewer as principal.

THE YEAR 1863.

The first of the year 1863 brought the news that President Lincoln had made his final proclamation, ending slavery forever in the nation. And the great free heart of the north country, in unison with the poor freed bodies of the south land, said, "Thank God—at last."

Giles Kinney traded for the Badger State Hotel on Whitewater Street, and as Giles had brought with him from York State an inherited bent to fix things up, he proceeded to rebuild and refit the whole concern from cellar to garret. He christened it the Cortland House, and, with Mrs. Kinney to manage the interior department, made it a reasonable success.

Milton Rowley, U. S. tax collector for this district, reported the amount of special war taxes collected in Whitewater for that year to be very nearly $4,000. This

was our first experience in paying a direct national tax. The market prices of farm products steadily advanced in price, as in fact did almost everything else. Wheat was quoted at $1.00 to $1.20, and other things about in proportion.

The U.S. postal currency came into circulation early this year. At first it was hailed with delight, and really was a very great convenience in making change, but it soon came to be almost a universal nuisance. It was a rag baby at best, it took a pocket full to do any good with, it got dirty awful quick, and it reverted to its original raghood in a short time. There was, however, always its one redeeming quality, it would go as long as it held together.

Treasury notes—greenbacks—began to circulate as lawful currency, a vast improvement over the miserable wild-cat uncertainties of the past. A man could sleep comfortably with a few of these in his pocket and wake up with assurance that they would "pass" at par.

Julius Birge overhauled and improved the machinery of the flouring mill and kept his optput of flour fully up to the times both in quality and quantity. Wood sold for $3.00 per cord, which was then considered a high price. There was general inquiry for houses to rent and there were not found enough to supply the demand. This was remedied in a good many cases by doubling up, two or more peaceable families finding shelter under the same roof.

A Soldiers' Aid Festival was held in the hall, March 14, which netted $329. The ladies of that time knew how to get the shekels sure.

The Fourth Regiment was reported at New Orleans, the Thirteenth in Tennessee, and the Twenty-eighth at Helena, Ark. The death of Lieut. J. M. Mead brought the exigencies of war to the hearts of all who had boys in the army. He was greatly respected by all who knew him for his many excellent qualities of mind and heart. His whole young life, at home, in school, and in public gave promise of rare manhood. Probably no richer life was sacrificed during the war.

The Register of March 29, in closing its sixth year, said: "These have been years of extraordinary [illegible]

cial troubles of every conceivable kind, all branches of business have suffered from interruption of trade, from uncertain prices, from depreciation of public stocks, and above all, from the shinplaster substitutes for money. We may now begin to look forward hopefully to better times. Our government money will surely displace the wretched stuff we have suffered from so long and make a vast improvement."

John Bridge took the news stand in the postoffice away from George Peck; just how is not recorded, but John was honest and George was—well, abundantly capable of taking care of himself—so it is presumable it was a fair deal. At any rate, George went back to his "case" and saved his reputation. Miss Augusta Baker and Miss Theodora Hare each tried a term of select school. While they were both excellent teachers yet there was no chance of their founding a young ladies' seminary in Whitewater at that time.

Cook & Shedd dissolved and D. S. Cook continued the business in the same place.

During the spring of this year there was an unusual amount of sickness in the community, mostly a low form of fever. Dr. Clarke said the only thing he knew about it was that it was a great deal more prevalent than manageable. It, however, was not fatal in very many cases.

S. Barns and C. M. Sikes tried the "ready-made-coffin" business in connection with their carpenter shop. There were not enough burials in Whitewater at that time to warrant this venture, and so the carpenter end of the shop absorbed most of their time and attention, and, besides this, Fred Thiele could suit folks enough better to get most of the trade.

During the spring of this year, one of the notable events was a sugar party given by the principal of the High School, Prof. Brewer, to his students and a few friends. At his invitation, they all "took to the bush" over near Hebron via numerous wagon loads and carry-alls—pellmell. Whether the professor owned the sugar bush or only rented it for the occasion is immaterial, he ran it that day at a lively gait. There was gathering sap and boiling in big kettles, and sugaring off,

and candy pulling galore. The jolly crowd had a general good old time, one long to be remembered by the happy boys and girls who put it through. How many of that company are living in Whitewater to-day?

The noted Parson Brownlow, of Tennessee, gave one of his original and stirring patriotic lectures in Metropolitan Hall. He fairly captured the hearts of all who really believed in God and an undivided country.

At the corporation election, May 4, Wm. DeWolf was elected president, H. L. Rann, F. L. Kiser, Edson Kellogg and C. C. Danforth, trustees; T. Hempel, treasurer; I. U. Wheeler, Jr., clerk, and C. G. Fay, marshal.

T. Hempel resigned as cashier of the Bank of Whitewater and was succeeded by Nelson Salisbury. S. C. Hall was president. Capt. Barnes returned from a winter in Cuba, where he with others had been with Alex. Graham. This was all the boys—Fun Hunters—were waiting for, and all hands started at once for Lake Koshkonong to have a general good time, tell stories, catch fish, and—drink spring water. Pitt Cravath was among the graduates at the State University this year, ranking well up to the top of the list. The assessor, R. O'Connor, reported that he couldn't find a single dog-owner in Whitewater. The dogs were all orphans on account of a special tax.

Prof. Brewer resigned as principal of the High School, and Prof. J. A. Badger was employed as his successor.

Enrollment for the Draft.—In July, the enrollment of all citizens subject to military duty was completed, preparatory to a draft if it should become necessary. They were divided into two classes. The first class included all males between the ages of 18 and 35 and all unmarried men below 45. The second class included all other persons subject to military duty; this class were practically exempt, as they were not to be called on till the first class was exhausted. Strange as it may seem, a good many were rather over-anxious to be rated as second-class men. The whole number found in the village subject to enrollment was 634. First class, 412. Second class, 241. A few corrections were made, but the figures are nearly correct. Whitewater had sent

out something over 200 men already, or about one-third of her really able-bodied men. It is not easy to realize how much this means to a small community, or indeed to any community.

Aug. 29 and 30, there was a heavy frost throughout the northwest. Whitewater escaped with less damage than some places farther south, but most of the garden truck and a large part of the corn crop were nearly ruined. There was very little sound corn marketed that year.

The Register of Oct. 9 says: "There are now in this place, a town of 3,000 inhabitants, twenty saloons, or places where liquor is sold, which is one licensed dram shop for 150 people, or one for every twenty-one voters. Now taking out one-half of these as men who never drink at all, we have a saloon supported each by about ten men. Stop and think of this." And they are still thinking of it—perhaps.

It began to be noticed about this time that the pennies, the old-fashioned big copper ones, began to be scarce, and then practically disappeared as mysteriously as the silver change had done something over a year before. Brass advertising tokens of various kinds were devised and soon passed current in making small change. They made no pretense to being money, but passed about as the Cannibal Island sea shells are said to, because there was nothing else.

The Draft.—The long-dreaded draft at length struck hard. Of the whole number enrolled in the township, 412 men, 113 drew prizes. These all had then the choice of entering the army ranks, or sending a substitute, or paying $300 for exemption, this being the sum supposed to be enough to induce some other man to go. Most of them paid up promptly, a few secured substitutes in one way and another, a smaller number still went into the service as drafted men. One or two were sharp enough to have enlisted a day or two before the draft occurred, but forgot to tell about it till after the list was published. These saved their $300 and got about that much bounty, making the deal worth $600. With the large bounties paid, men were found in some way to fill the quotas, but it was not pleasant. Several of

the boys from the Fourth and Thirteenth regiments, having re-enlisted, visited home on veteran furlough. These received about $400 bounty. Altogether it was a time that tried men to the very core, and a few were found to be somewhat unsound.

Heavy snow fell early in December and travel was pretty well blockaded for some time. In places, the drifts were about even with the fences.

During the last week of this year, a meeting of all interested was called to try once more to see what could be done to secure the building of the Central Railroad. The meeting was large enough and anxious enough but resulted in nothing more than deferred hope.

Business Conditions.—The year had been a trying one in many respects. Everybody felt the strain of continued war excitement in more ways than can be told thirty-five years afterwards. Locally, there was a fairly prosperous condition. Prices were good, crops of all kinds a fair average, manufactures in good demand, trade was hopeful, and wages high. Money was plentiful enough but there was not yet in circulation enough of greenbacks to displace the wildcats. There was a reasonable increase of prosperity and accumulation of personal property. Several good business blocks or stores had been completed and improvements made in every part of the town. North Prairie Street was greatly improved by grading, shade trees, and new residences of a good class. Reaperville had also done a good deal of improvement and many new homes had sprung up as if by magic. Some of the men who worked in the reaper factory all day worked part of the night on their own houses, and in this way not a few modest homes were secured. There was also considerable building of moderate-priced homes in the west and south parts of the village. On the whole, it was not a bad year for the material prosperity of Whitewater. There was undoubtedly a moderate gain. The war cloud and its train of inevitable consequences were the only drawbacks.

The year closed as most other years have, at midnight of Dec. 31, but with the mercury away down

among the 20's below zero, and the wind a moderate gale from the northwest.

THE YEAR 1864.

This year opened where '63 left off, with the mercury lost somewhere away below zero. It was said that Jan. 1st was the coldest day ever known by the muskrats of this vicinity—28 degrees below zero. The mail was delayed four days from Chicago. The only news from the army was that they were mostly in winter quarters—which was considered sensible. A town meeting was held Jan. 13 and a town tax of $8,000 was voted to pay bounties that would secure volunteers enough to fill out our quota and prevent a further draft.

A Local Freedman's Aid Society was organized to secure clothing and general relief for the "contrabands" who were drifting north in destitute circumstances.

Internal revenue stamps made their appearance about this time, and then, as now, 1899, were a general nuisance, or annoyance.

Most of the Thirteenth Regiment re-enlisted and came home on a short furlough. Some, however, preferred not to stay on to the end.

Geo. Esterly bought the E. Wakeley place at the head of Center street. This was then, as it has ever been, the finest location in the city in many respects. Mr. Esterly made his home here till he died, shortly after which it became public school property.

The boys who enlisted in the Milwaukee Battery last fall report their battery, the 13th, at Baton Rouge La. The writer has no record of any names. Sergt. Geo. H. Beckwith of the 13th regiment, home on furlough, began a new company by marrying Miss Rosalia A. Stowe. George served his time faithfully as a good soldier, and came home to die of disease contracted in the army.

L. H. Rann was commissioned to enlist men for the 37th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, under the last call for 20,000 more men. Whitewater's quota was about 30 men. This was about the middle of March and the next draft was set for April 15.

The First National Bank of Whitewater was put in operation this spring, Sanger Marsh, President, C. M. Blackman, Cashier.

D. S. Cook advertised to exchange all or any part of his goods for Whitewater Volunteer Fund Scrip. This indicates several things that those interested may guess out to suit themselves. Mr. Cook certainly had faith in Whitewater.

The merchants all went to New York in those times to purchase annual or semi-annual stocks of goods. Each trip was a somewhat notable event in the community and to the individual who made it. It was not far from this time, however, that some of them, though they started for New York, stopped in Chicago; but they didn't tell of that for some years.

About the middle of April, the 4th Regiment, having most of them re-enlisted for the war, came home on thirty days' furlough, the 13th Regiment having just returned to duty at and near Nashville, Tenn.

About the last of April, there was quite an exodus for the new mines of Idaho. O. H. Conger and Albert Sweetland were the first to start. J. L. Pratt and two sons, H. Dann, Hill Whitmore, Nelson Fryer, Lewellyn Clapp, Dan. Mulks, A. S. Kinne, R. W. Knox, Dr. G. S. Hoadley, and some others started out with various outfits of mules, oxen, or horses, all determined to get gold, or experience. It is hardly to be presumed that Idaho was any poorer for their labors there, and if Wisconsin was much richer for what they brought back certainly few of us ever knew it.

The Governor of Wisconsin, with those of several other Western states, offered to raise several regiments of three-months men for garrison and guard duty. This offer was accepted by Pres. Lincoln and 100,000 such men called for. Wisconsin's quota was 5000, and Whitewater furnished about 30.

N. S. Murphey was commissioned to raise a company of 100-day men.

On the 16th of May, Capt. Asad Williams and John M. Clark, two of our oldest settlers, died at their homes just west of town, both of them worthy and notable men.

Capt. Frank Barnes opened a ship yard and built the first of those popular cruisers for the lake excursion trade. The captain carried all who came his way, giving them their full money's worth of both boating and fun, transferring his flag proudly from boat to boat and from lake to lake, until he was admiral of the four lakes around Wisconsin's capital.

A sheep-shearing festival was held at L. Vincent's about the middle of May, at which a large number of full-blooded Spanish merino sheep parted with their fleeces in pretty sharp competition, the highest weight of single fleece being 21¾ lbs. from a two-year-old buck owned by H. Williams. Others were heavy but not quite up to this. In connection with this, fine wool was quoted as high as 80 cts. per pound, though this was above the ruling price; $17.40 was a pretty good figure for one sheep's wool.

The week of June 6 to 11 was devoted to the "Lake Koshkonong Piscatorial Association," or in other words a general outing by the boys and all their friends. And it wasn't all outing,—but Frank Barnes was there with his new steamer, proudly named the Scutanawbequon. It was said that "fun" was the only prevailing disease and that was contagious. The Whitewater Brass Band was there, and there "was music in the air"—there is no use talking; some of those old outings were immensely genuine.

A letter from one of our boys in the army of the Potomac says, "We have marched, and fought, and slept on the ground, for thirty days ant thirty nights without changing a rag of clothing, through dust and heat and rain; and this is the line we are to fight it out on, so says the General."

Chas. W. Steele received his commission as Captain of Co. A., 4th Regiment. He left here three years before, a private with Capt. Curtice's original company.

Gold was quoted as high as 2.30, 2.50, etc., but as Whitewater had no gold to sell and didn't want to buy any, it affected us but very little.

S. C. Hall & Co. shipped one consignment of wool that brought back twenty-five thousand dollars—the price per pound not given, but James Holden, of Heart

Prairie, reported that forty-four fleeces brought him $291, almost $7.00 per head.

Julius Birge was accused of raising the price of flour by the barrel one dollar a day for several weeks—raising the tariff, as he said, to save himself from the rapacious farmers who sold wheat at fabulous prices.

Geo. Esterly's improved machines for this year were in greater demand than he could supply. The shops were driven to their utmost capacity, employing a larger force of men and having better facilities than ever before. Winchester, DeWolf & Co., fearing to be overstocked, shut down for a time in mid-summer.

Nearly two months of solid drouth about used up the gardens and ruined the majority of farm crops. Late rains helped out in some things, but at the best there was a short crop.

Day of Fasting and Prayer.—A proclamation from President Lincoln appointed the 4th day of August as a day of fasting and prayer, and another one called for 500,000 more men, which if not forthcoming were to be drafted on the fifth day of September.

The day of fasting and prayer was observed by many and the others kept still. The call for 500,000 more men was also observed by all—who were subject to draft. A large and anxious public meeting was held and steps were taken to raise Whitewater's quota. It was estimated that $14.000 would pay the bounties necessary to secure the men. The enrollment showed 481 men subject to draft and the committee found that $14,000 would not be enough money into some three or four thousand dollars. However hard it seemed at the time, and it was hard, the money was raised and our quota of 66 men was filled without another draft. Several good mechanics went into the service of the government in the quartermaster's department, among them the writer of these sketches.

About the middle of September, some of the leading citizens made a raid on the postoffice and in spite (?) of all the postmaster, H. L. Rann, could do, or say, they took possession and cleared everything out in short order. They carried it all over to the office of the old Exchange Hotel and set it up there rather loosely. John

P. Cutler and a few other mechanics went to work in the vacated room and set up Whitewater's first set of "boughten" furniture, boxes, etc., and after it was completed they gave Postmaster Rann permission to move back, S. C. Hall paying for the improvements. There weren't any Yale outfits in those days and we didn't need any, our home mechanics could do work equal to any in the land. We were all proud of the outfit and there was quite a rush for choice of boxes. N. D. Williams, O. T. Hamilton, and doubtless others, secured their old numbers, and have kept them through all the changes from the beginning.

The first registry law came in force this year, requiring all voters to register. A Lincoln Club was organized with J. S. Partridge, president and T. D. Weeks, secretary, and a vigorous campaign was inaugurated—not only inaugurated, but pushed through with unabated vigor till the votes were all counted.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society gave a festival which netted $200 for the benefit of the poor. Our foremothers could move things when they wanted to.

Whitewater went still more determinedly Union at the November election, giving Col. Halbert E. Paine 337 majority for Congress. Milwaukee again outvoted us, but the vote of our boys in the army set this right and the gallant Paine was elected to Congress.

During this year, the Register printed some very interesting army correspondence from Geo. W. Steele, Albert Salisbury, and some others. These two made some pretty sharp guesses as to the general situation, which have since crystalized into fairly good prophecy.

Lieut. H. O. Montague, of the 1st Wisconsin, having served his three years, came home to stay. He bought the Baldwin place for a home, and was appointed Internal Revenue Assessor vice I. C. Day, resigned on account of ill health. Mr. Day died very shortly after resigning. He was a good citizen and a man of generous heart, respected by all. Dr. E. G. Horton also returned to resume his practice, having served faithfully as surgeon with the 13th Regiment his full three years. His health is far from good.

Wood sold during the early winter from $5.00 to $6.50 per cord and many hundred cords found their way to the railroad, which then burned wood altogether instead of coal.

Geo. Esterly put in a saw mill at the reaper works to cut a good deal of his own lumber, and some for customers. He also started quite an extensive furniture factory. Altogether, his works were a busy place where more than one hundred men found profitable employment. The other factories, though all doing something, could not find it profitable to run at their fullest capacity, owing to the high prices of material and the uncertainties of collections. Still all things were hopeful and nobody failed.

Gold was going up, that is, it was so reported,—little enough went up in Whitewater, but our paper money went down, or the things that it would buy went up. At any rate, business was generally not a little dizzy and uncertain.

And here comes a call for 300,000 more men and everybody began to figure again on the number required to fill our quota and how to get them.

There was also another spasm of academy building in the air and this time there was an actual proposition to locate it where the Normal was afterward built. All preparation for the coming state institution.

THE YEAR 1865.

Winchester, DeWolf & Co. bought L. A. Tanner's stock of hardware and Wm. DeWolf put himself behind the counter to push the business. The plow factory went on as though nothing had happened.

Little was done—but talk—to fill the last call for men, up to the first of February, when the township was notified to furnish twenty-seven men immediately. Then all who were subject to draft wished they had done something besides talk. A vigorous effort was at once made by subscription and by town tax, and the necessary money was raised; $3,070 were subscribed and $4,8000 levied as a tax, for which bonds were sold. It was a close call, but the draft was avoided. The bounties paid were about $300 per man.

Mrs. Miriam Cravath, the aged mother of Prosper Cravath, died early this year, aged 87 years. She came here with her family from Cortland, N. Y., in 1840.

Gov. Lewis appointed Judge S. A. White one of the State Normal School Regents. That was the beginning —the rest came in due time.

There was considerable local excitement this spring about finds, and possible finds, of coal oil. A few speculators anxious to forestall fortune's smiles secured numerous conditional leases of land in several suspicious localities. Palmyra folks thought they had it sure at one time, but none of them "struck ile."

The news from Grant and Sherman and the army generally was cheering and everyone felt encouraged to believe that the end of the war was not far away. And in consequence business of all kinds was more hopeful.

The postal currency by this time had developed all its capacity for general want of ability. It was a nuisance of the first grade but there was nothing to take its place except more of the same kind, and a portion of that was now found to be counterfeit. In addition to this, our State Bank bills were a little shaky, and some of them were spurious. Would the money trouble never end? Yes, in time.

E. J. Pratt, Geo. W. Steele, Geo. Beckwith and A. J. Smith, of the 13th Regiment, all received commissions by promotion.

The National Income Tax Assessor found seventy-six men in the township whose income was over $1000 and who paid taxes on the excess. They didn't like it worth a cent.

Lee's Surrender.—Spring really came about the first of April and with it the glorious news of Lee's surrender and practically the end of the war. The long strain was at last over and all could now devote themselves to the new spring's life, to the regeneration of the forces that had been scattered and demoralized by four long years of war—terrible war. Places were vacant that would never be filled, but those who remained took up anew the activities of life with very much the same irrepressible energy manifested by the springtime

of all nature around them. "Let the dead past bury its dead" seems to be an immutable law. Bonfires illuminated the streets, processions were formed and marched to martial music, with general rejoicing. Speeches were forced by the laughing crowd from all who could speak and many who could not. Songs were sung by men who never tried to sing before and never dared to again. Gov. Lewis proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for victory gained and peace at last. And every heart was ready for the great commander's "Let us have peace."

Death of Lincoln.—And almost in the midst of this general rejoicing there came upon us the awful report of the assassination of Lincoln. This was our last and most terrible sensation. The 19th day of April was set apart for funeral services throughout the country. All business was suspended and services were held in the churches and evidences of mourning were seen everywhere the eye turned. It was a rainy day here and no procession was formed as had been proposed.

The academy enterprise was still alive in the talk of a respectable number of good men, and the petroleum speculators organized an association of rather indefinite dimensions on paper.

Prosper Cravath undertook to discover and develop a mine of iron ore somewhere east of town. The petroleum men said it was all in envy of their prospects.

Dr. Fish was succeeded in his homeopathic practice by Dr. A. G. Leland, and Dr. Leland has continued it with his never-tiring energy, patience and skill up to this time, thirty-four years.

The annual meeting of the Wisconsin Wool-Growers' Association was held here the 9th of May and was largely attended by men from different sections of the state. There was a sheep-shearing contest at which O. A. Cravath's buck sheared 18 lbs. 7 oz. of wool. C. Aldrich and C. M. Clark were close seconds. There was much interest manifested and some information gained.

Early this year, Mr. S. C. Hall, and with him the Bank of Whitewater, suspended. This was a serious matter and involved a great deal of loss. Mr. Hall had been one of the most energetic and successful business

men Whitewøter ever had. His failure was more than a loss, it was a calamity.

The street sprinkler started out for the first time this year.

The state census, taken by W. H. Lull, showed 2958 inhabitants in the village; in the township 4006. This was a fair gain for five war years.

R. Cheney had the old nursery, planted some years before by Dwight Bassett—and which had been neglected till it was a nuisance,—cleared off and planted to corn, redeemed and civilized once more. It was the twenty acres west and northwest of the Normal on the Cold Spring road. There was some tall corn there.

The State Teachers' Convention was held here this year, Aug. 1 to 4. Prof. W. C. Whitford, of Milton was president and J. K. Purdy, of Ft. Atkinson, secretary. There was a large attendance and such enthusiasm as only those old-timers knew how to shake loose was manifested throughout the four days' session. J. A. Badger, C. H. Allen, A. J. Craig, O. F. Bright, J. G. McMynn, E. B. Gray, A. J. Cheney, and others of the old guard who knew how "to teach school and board around," were mixed up in it.

Bonus Voted For a Normal School.—Aug. 30th, a special election was held and the sum of $20,000 voted to secure the location of a State Normal School. It was also arranged to offer the site, to be paid for by subscription. To make a long story short, this was the beginning of success and the Normal—our Whitewater Normal school, was located in Whitewater on Normal Hill.

Edson Kellogg, while hunting on Blackhawk Island, was mortally wounded by the accidental discharge of his own gun and died at the residence of Halsey Beemer a few days later, on the 20th of October. Mr. Kellogg was a first-class lawyer, a genial and public-spirited citizen. He had lived in Whitewater eight years and was a thorough worker in all that could possibly advance the good of our community. He was buried by the Masonic fraternity.

The Catholics began the erection of their new church late this fall and a move was made by the Evangelical

Germans to build on Janesville street, both of which were successful in due time.

This year, 1865, closed with a good deal of uncertainty, yet everybody had something to say, and nearly all were hopeful of better times coming soon. There was no stagnation here, but on the contrary a general willingness to expand in almost any direction. Money was not scarce but the quality was not yet entirely settled, for the State Banks were in process of liquidating. Rates were high and money-lenders were having a good time generally at about 12 per cent.

Prices quoted were: flour, $7.50 to $8.50; wheat, $1.20 $1.30; corn, 30c, 35 cents; clover seed, $5.50, $6.00; butter, 20 cents, 22 cents; beef, live, $3.50, $4.00; pork, $7.00, $9.00, dressed.

THE YEAR 1866.

Capt. E. S. Redington, having got home from the war safely, immediately made war on the cord wood market and coolly asked for 1000 cords. Later on, Railroad street looked as if he got even more than he called for. Cap. was always a hustler.

Jan. 23d, Mr. Levi Kinney, one of our pioneers, died of cancer. He was a good man and universally respected.

At last, the State Board of Normal School Regents located a Normal school in Whitewater, provided Whitewater furnish a suitable site and $25,000 cash bonus.

The tax was voted, the site was secured by subscription, and the building of the school assured early in March of this year. A very desirable culmination of a long-continued effort to secure some kind of a high school.

Capt. Barnes having sold his excursion boat, the Scutanawbequon, again opened his navy yard on the margin of Cravath lake for the construction of a new and larger boat for his Madison Steam Passenger Packet Line, and he built it.

John Wilson, S. C. Birge, Hill Whitmore, Ben Frees and some others again fitted out for the gold regions of the Rocky Mountain country.

When that little party got ready to start for Montana, lo and behold, there was a train of some thirty wagons and about half of a regular military company recruited from among our best citizens to leave us in search of gold instead of glory. Well, everybody wished them success, though a little doubtful about their realizing it in that way.

Prop. Cravath got his dander up and went down to the Red River country to investigate the condition and temper of things there.

A Young Men's Christian Association was organized April 23d with Dr. A. G. Leland president, W. S. Branch, secretary and Geo. Marsh, treasurer. And so began the work of the Y. M. C. A. in Whitewater.

Major Chas. E. Curtice died June 4th of disease contracted in the service. He left here in 1861 as captain of Co. A., 4th Regiment, and served faithfully all through the war. During the last year, he was a paymaster and, as he was already a desirable, genial, and popular comrade, our Grand Army Post was named in his memory.

There was a large amount of building done this year. Every mechanic was busy and at good wages.

The modern game of baseball "as she is now played," struck the town for the first time, and was exceedingly contagious. Mannering DeWolf was captain and all the boys enlisted. No bounties.

The veritable Colorado potato bug made its appearance this year and immediately proceeded to business. He came to stay.

Capt. J. L. Pratt sold his wagon shop with tools and all his interest therein to E. O. Converse, who continued the business.

A Bad Fire.—Aug. 10th, Chaffee's planing mill and sash and door factory burned with all its contents. The fire soon spread across the street to Thiele's furniture store, which went up in flames with all its contents, including household goods, clothing, and pretty much everything he and his family had in the world. J. Koelzer's meat market shared the same fate. Henry Lingemann's blacksmith shop was torn down to prevent the spread of the fire, which was finally got under con-

trol barely in time and manner to escape a general conflagration. It looked for a time as though the whole town would share the fate of the planing mill. Thiele had some insurance, the balance was a total loss. We didn't have our fire laddies then, it was only a bucket brigade. In less than a week, Fred was again doing business, this time in the Ensign store on the north side of Main street. When the planing mill was rebuilt it went out to its present location, south of the railroad on Trippe street.

Whitewater Baseball Nine played at Madison and won by a score of 65 to 18. Think of that you kids of a degenerate generation. Frank Tratt was left field. A short time afterward, they played the Elkhorn boys at the County Fair and won by a score of 74 to 22. There was some running done in such games

J. M. Crombie sold the paper mill to John W. Denison and L. A. Tanner for $37,500.

Work was actually begun on the foundation of the New Normal school building.

The first cheese factory enterprise was inaugurated north of town in Cold Spring by Messrs. Pike, Case and Horton. This was a move in the right direction—the real beginning of dairying.

P. H. Brady, Joshua Cobb, A. F. Knox, and Simeon Cobb, all well known and highly respected citizens here for many years, died early in October.

The third and fourth special meetings for the purpose of compromising with the bondholders of the town's Central Railroad Bonds was successful and a large majority voted to compromise. The exact terms are not recorded.

This year closed with considerable prosperity for Whitewater. There was a wide-spread speculative feeling that stirred the blood of even conservative men. There had been an unusual amount of building and yet there was scarcely a house for rent, and plans were being talked of for a large number next year. The factories were doing their utmost to fill orders and realizing good prices with, however, a serious drawback in the long-credit system that the war times had entailed. It was not easy to change "slow collection" habits.

THE YEAR 1867.

Building of the Normal School.—The year 1867 opened happily for everybody in Whitewater.

The Normal school building was to be erected under the supervision of a committee and not by contract, N. M. Littlejohn and Judge White being the active managers. Some $30,000 were carefully expended, which the home business and labor got the benefit of, while the state got rather more than value received. There was some kicking about the tax levy, but on the whole it was a remarkably well executed business from first to last. This, with other improvements, made everything hopeful.

Winchester, DeWolf & Co., dissolved, Mr. DeWolf taking the hardware store and Winchester, Partridge & Co. the extensive manufacturing plant. The business was in no way interrupted but pushed with vigor to meet a growing trade.

Solmous Wakeley died on the 12th of January, aged 72 years. Mr. Wakeley came to Whitewater in 1842 and had therefore been identified with about all of Whitewater. He was a member of the first Constitutional Convention and, later, a member of the Legislature. He was a man of strong intellect, clear and logical, genial, social, moral,—a good man.

A destructive fire broke out in John Walsh's store and burned everything there, as also nearly everything for Kinne & Polhemus adjoining. The losses were heavy. No fire laddies, but everybody worked with a will and to pretty good purpose. Mr. Polhemus lived over the store and saved part of his clothing and furniture. Some of their goods were saved in a damaged condition. They had a fair insurance which was quickly paid and they moved temporarily into the Allen Starin building on Center St.

Daniel Graham, a former resident, one of nature's noblemen, died in Montreal. The body was buried here.

Fred Douglass drew a large crowd to hear him speak on "The Sources of Danger to the Republic."

Hon. Alanson Pike died March 5th. Though living across the line in Cold Spring he was always counted

one of Whitewater's thorough-going, good men, honorable, benevolent, true.,

Willard Stebbins traded his Lima farm to L. E. Hawes for property on Janesville street and at the corner of First and Center streets. Mr. Stebbins was a famous debater in his day and an all around good man.

A special charter was secured from the Legislature incorporating the Whitewater Peat Company. Up to this writing 1899, nothing more has been heard of it.

At the time town election, one Willis Clarke, a fair sample of the colored man, was duly elected to office in Whitewater, succeeding Julius C. Birge as sealer of weights and measures. This assured us a front seat in the re-construction business. It established a principle even though it may not have become a political practice.

Mr. Asaph Pratt bought the Exchange Hotel property of Mrs. C. E. Curtice and made an effort to rejuvenate the building, but it was not very successful.

April 15th, Samuel Prince, who built the first dwelling in the township, died at his home just west of town. He was not only a pioneer but he was an honest man and a good citizen.

The new Catholic church was dedicated May 19th by Bishop Henni, assisted by visiting clergy. It had then the largest audience room in the city and a real credit to its people.

Village Politics.—At the annual election this spring, W. L. R. Stewart was chosen president with Geo. W. Esterly, I. U. Wheeler 2d, Geo. T. Ferris and Pitt Cravath trustees. This election, almost without forethought or intention, involved the high license or no license issue. At any rate, the question was forced on this board by circumstances quite beyond their wish or control. But they were not the men to halt or shirk a square deal in the line of duty. They had been fairly elected, and, as it happened, on an issue not of their choosing. It was awkward, but they proposed to be the trustees for one term without fear or favor. Excitement ran pretty high, the temperance men demanded too much—and the saloon men swore too hard—while between them, some

were indifferent and others got "skeered". The trustees kept reasonably clear-headed and tried to do right.

Well, the same old issue in one shape or another is with us still, and we have not improved much on the action of "the boys" 32 years ago.

Improvements were the order in every part of the town. Everybody was busy early and late.

The beautiful young oak grove on the East Side disappeared before the march of improvement. Some efforts had been made to secure this for a public park but they were unavailing and the whole hill was soon planted to moderate homes, potatoes, and cabbage,—rather more useful, it is true, but not nearly as ornamental as a well kept park.

The very last day, or night, of May, Esterly's reaper works were discovered to be on fire, but too late to save that part or much of its contents—the machine shop and furniture works were soon in ruins and only by the work of the bucket brigade the other shops were saved. The loss over and above insurance was probably $25,000, besides the interruption of the regular work of the men and the filling of orders, etc. It was a heavy loss for Mr. Esterly, for his employees, and for the town. The most strenuous efforts were made by all to quickly repair the damage.

The Whitewater post-office became a money order office. Col. E. B. Gray being postmaster.

An attempt was made to secure the old fair ground as a public park, but somehow there was not quite enough energy behind the movement to make it succeed —this was also too bad.

Charley Hudson put up a small shop next east of the Montour-Mosher House. This was a surprise, for everybody considered that ground open to the public.

The wool market was quoted up to 40 cents a pound, and farmers were quite unwilling to sell at such starvation prices.

Capt. J. L. Pratt sold his interest in the planing mill to S. H. Tuttle; the new firm was Tuttle & Chaffee and they were doing a large business.

In July, work began in earnest on the Normal school building, N. M. Littlejohn superintending.

Rev. E. W. Kirkham was returned as pastor of the Methodist church for the third year. He was the first third-year minister of that church in Whitewater. He was an eloquent preacher. A year later, he went to Janesville where he was stricken by a peculiar form of insanity of which he eventually died.

The Congregational Society raised three hundred dollars for the education of Freedmen in the South and Miss Amelia Rockafellow volunteered to go as a missionary teacher.

On Sunday morning, the 10th of November, another destructive fire burned out everything on the north side of Main street from Busch's block east. But little was saved, so rapid and uncontrollable was the spread of the fire. The fire broke out first in the store of Lyman Malory, dry goods. The insurance was as follows: G. A. Mosher, hotel, $5,200; Chas. Hudson, gun shop, $350; George Streng, furniture, $1,000; J. Walsh, barn, $200; Thos. Bassett, building, $600; L. Malory, dry goods, $10,000; Mrs. Dahlen, stock and building, $1,500; Andersen & Halverson, clothing, $2,000; Christensen & Nelson, shoe stock, $900; J. C. Mason, groceries, $1,000. Total, $22,750. The loss, of course, was much greater than this. It was said to be the heaviest loss that the village had sustained by any one fire.

Cole & Hunter's pottery establishment was burned out on the last day of November. The small office building was the only remnant saved. Insured for $3,000, about half valuation.

Rev. A. B. Green, pastor of the Baptist church, resigned his charge here and went to Augusta, Wis.

Another spasmodic attempt was made to get some kind of a fire department organized but it was short lived.

There was a wide difference of opinion about building a new public school-house, though nearly all were agreed that something must be done soon.

The Normal school building was approaching completion and was, for that time, a fine structure. Elias Bonnett, then a young man, worked on the stone wall and laid the first water-table course of stone. George Birge was foreman of the carpenter work. W. H. S.

Hewitt, M. McHugh, Ben Warne, and Oscar Smith, all yet living here, worked on it.

The wild geese, the muskrats, the corn husks, and some other infallible foretellers of weather all united —or were said to—in their auguries for a cold winter; but up to December 31 their prophecy had been no better than a moderately poor guess. Snow fell early in December and the sleighing was enjoyable. The year closed with prices ruling high, largely on account of the uncertainty of greenback redemption, some really believing it could not be done.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

PROSPER CRAVATH, ESQ.

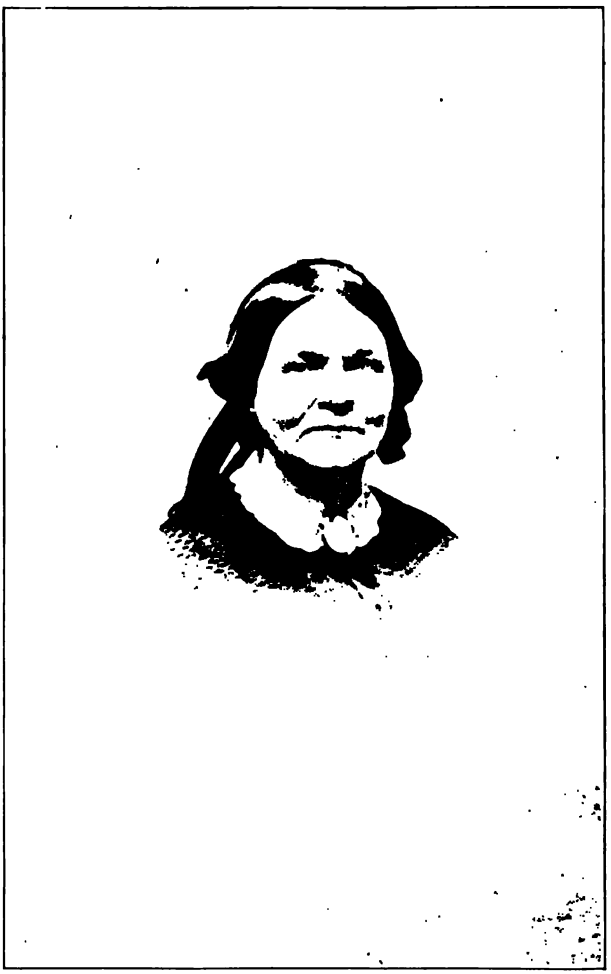
Since the main feature of this book consists in the historical sketch elaborated by Mr. Cravath in 1858, and since he was, moreover, for many years really the foremost citizen of Whitewater, it seems fitting to present a concise account of the man and his career.

Prosper Cravath, Jr., was the oldest son of Deacon Prosper Cravath and Miriam Kinney. He was born in Cortland, N. Y., May 28, 1809, and was one of a family of sixteen children. His parents were of the old New England stock and his early training was what that fact implies.

At twenty years of age, he began the study of law in the office of Mr. Hawks, a prominent lawyer of Cortland; but the necessity for self support caused frequent interruptions of his studies. He accordingly taught district school besides hiring out, at times, to the neighboring farmers in the busier seasons.

On March 28, 1834, he married Maria P. Noble, a young "schoolma'am" of the vicinity. She was born in Massachusetts and was the daughter of Solomon Noble. At Cortland, was born to them a daughter, Emma, afterwards the wife of Dr. Rice, of Whitewater. Shortly after the birth of their daughter, they removed to Northern Ohio, where Mr. Cravath engaged in farming until 1839, when he came to Wisconsin, entering the farm in the east edge of Lima, recently owned by Chas. W. Nickerson.

In the following year, 1840, he was followed by his parents with his brothers, most of his sisters, and their husbands or prospective husbands, who settled in Lima, forming the "Cravath neighborhood." On this Lima farm, was born Pitt Cravath, the only son, in 1844.



MRS. PROSPER CRAVATH
(AUNT MARIA)

While living on the farm, he intermittently practiced surveying and dabbled in law. In 1840, he surveyed and platted the village of Whitewater for Dr. Trippe, the original proprietor of the town site. The peculiarity of this original survey has often been commented on. Taking Trippe's grist-mill, now the Stone Mill, as a center, the several streets radiated from it like the spokes of a wheel. This plan was, in time, broken up and departed from; but it accounts for some of the peculiarities in the streets of the city.

In 1843, Mr. Cravath was admitted to practice in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Wis.; and in 1845 he removed to the village, where he built the house at the corner of Center and Church Streets which was his home for more than forty years, and which was a well-known center of benevolence and wise counsel.

When Wisconsin was admitted as a state, he was elected a member of the first Legislature, which convened June 5, 1848. He held various local offices at times, and in later life was postmaster of Whitewater for a term of eight years, from 1872 to 1880.

When T. D. Weeks came to Whitewater, as a young man, he formed an office connection with Mr. Cravath, which was continued for some years.

Mr. Cravath was a man of strong and unique personality. Physically, he was tall and strongly built, with broad shoulders slightly stooping and surmounted by a large head with a wealth of hair. In temperament, he was kindly and large-hearted, slow of speech at the start, but forcible and often eloquent in expression, and gifted with a quaint, homely humor which always secured him eager and attentive listeners. At public gatherings, there was never lack of an audience if it was known that "Prop." Cravath was going to speak; and managers of political meetings often kept him back until the last in order to be sure of holding the audience. He was a man of absolute honesty in thought and deed, a good lawyer, and a wise counselor. It was always his policy to bring litigants to a mutually advantageous settlement rather than to expensive contests in the courts. His absent-mindedness and other eccentricities grew upon him with the years, but these

only made him the more interesting as an interlocutor and as a citizen.

Though conservative in regard to many things, he was never indifferent to the public welfare; and he was never a trimmer or an uncertain factor. He sustained, indeed, a relation to the history and development of the social life of the community, in its first forty years, such as was held by no other and which can not well be appreciated by those who were not his contemporaries. His own life was largely interwoven with it, and he held a warm place in the hearts of the people, whether they always fell in with his views or not. To the needy, he was always a friend; of the public interests, a faithful guardian; to his neighbors, a valued and generous-hearted friend; and to the whole world, an honest man.

Though never a church member, he was always deeply interested in the welfare of the Congregational Church. He drew up the constitution of the Congregational Society, and was a very useful member thereof for many years. While not accepting all the tenets of old-time orthodoxy, he was in his inner experience a very religious man. He was a diligent reader of the Bible and had no question of its value in the conduct of human life. He was also a great lover of Homer's Iliad. But his intellectual and religious life and tastes were seldom aired unless to a few intimate friends. All in all, he was an exceedingly interesting type of the pioneer generation now gone from their earthly scene, which was rich in the variety and sturdiness of its "characters." Men were not all of one type or mold in that generation, and few of them were of a weak type, however sharp their angles might be.

But no account of Prosper Cravath would be complete which neglected mention of his noble helpmeet, "Aunt Maria." Coming to Whitewater as a young wife before Whitewater as yet existed, endowed with a wise, kindly, and self-sacrificing nature, she entered into the life of the community as a potent, enduring element of good. She was one of the pillars in the church, and a leader in all its social and benevolent activities. She became, in fact, the chief almoner of

public charities, and for many years the poor and needy of Whitewater were her especial care. And many a woman past the prime of life to-day looks back to the kindly offices and counsels of Mrs. Cravath as having helped to shape her life in useful ways. It was a sorrow to the whole community, as well as a calamity to herself and family, that failing mental powers should have so mysteriously clouded her later years. It is probably too much to hope that any man and wife will ever again render to Whitewater such genuine service through so many years as did Prosper and Maria Cravath. "They rest from their labors and their works do follow them." A. S.

MEMORIES OF BY-GONE DAYS.

(Written in June, 1904.)

MRS. FREEMAN L. PRATT.

In July, 1837, Norman Pratt came from New York State and claimed for himself the north half of section 8, and the north half and south-east quarter of section 5 for his brother Freeman, and the north half of section 6 for Dean Williams, his wife's brother. Having made arrangements to have land broken on each section, in order to protect the claims, he returned East for his family. When he came back to his Wisconsin home, he was accompanied by his brother Freeman, the two Mrs. Pratts, and Dean Williams. We came on the old steamer "De Witt Clinton" from Buffalo, and were eleven days making the trip. By mistake, the boat ran by Milwaukee, ran to Chicago, laid there one day, and leisurely returned. At Milwaukee, we hired a team, came out 15 miles the first day, and stayed all night with a family named Plumb. The next day, we came as far as Heart Prairie, stopping over night with True Rand and E. Worthington. They were making use of their covered wagon for a sleeping-room, cooking by a "prairie stove," of which they kindly gave us the use. The next day, we went to Ft. Atkinson, where we were carried over the river in a canoe, D. Foster, a man weighing 250 pounds, sitting in one end, paddling the canoe; at the other end myself and baby boy. Those

MRS. FREEMAN PRATT
(AUNT MELINDA)

who have had any experience with this kind of craft will not need further detail as to the state of my feelings when landed on the other side of Rock River. This was but a few years after the Black Hawk War, and some parts of the fort and tents were still standing.

Mr. Alvah Foster's house, where the Mrs. Pratts were left to board, was built of rough logs, one room below, and a part of a floor above, reached by a ladder. The house accommodated seven families for a short time, five of them having one child each. Most of the time it was either sunshine or sorrow.

When the Pratts had completed their log house on the prairie, F. L. Pratt came with an ox team and moved the two families and their baggage, which consisted of two trunks and two children, one of them C. A. Pratt of this city. We were delighted when we came in sight of our log cottage. The door was smooth, and the latch and handle showed the skill and work of no common carpenter. The lower floor was loose, rough boards, the upper floor was rails, or puncheon, more properly. Our windows were three half-sash, and they were often curtained by the Indians, blankets over their heads, looking in. Oh, the horror we had of those Pottawatomies and Winnebagoes, the dirty, disagreeable creatures! One time, we Pratt women were alone. We saw one of those noble specimens coming towards the house. After looking in the window, not stopping to ring the bell, he hastily pulled the latch string, came in, said "Bouzhoo" (Bon jour, good day); then quietly seated himself, holding his gun in his hand. He was in "full dress," his hair was ornamented with bright red feathers, and squirrel tails braided in a long braid and hanging down his back. He had on a blanket with a girdle tied around him, and, on his feet, moccasins that completed his costume. We had our dinner on the table. I said to Mrs. Norman Pratt, "Let him eat, and then he will go." This arrangement seemed to strike him favorably. He made no excuse, gently put his gun on the floor, and pushed his blanket aside so that he could have free use of his hands, as he had no use for a knife and fork. For dinner, we had "prairie slap jacks," as the Badgers call

MRS. NORMAN PRATT
(AUNT JANE)

them, as large as a dining plate, covered with butter and maple sugar. This luxury we had only on certain occasions. We were chatting and waiting for our coffee to boil when our visitor first made his appearance. We surely thought the final end had come, and so it had to our slap jacks, as they passed on to their "happy hunting ground." After eating butter with a teaspoon, the only dessert he saw, he finally got up, stretched himself, and said it was "goot." On looking around he saw some bottles on a shelf and said, "Whiskey?" We told him "no whiskey," but the persistent son of the forest was not satisfied. A full bottle of pepper sauce was handed him. We thought that after tasting it he would be glad to give it back, but no, the Pottawatomie swallowed its contents, rubbing his stomach and smacking his lips as if under the impression that he had tapped a brand of fire-water which went right to the spot. Now, to the relief of us frightened women, the red man left, his face expressing satisfaction with the good social time he had had, both of body and mind.

We had heard it said that an Indian always remembered a favor. This was proved true by the fact that this one soon returned, bringing his squaw with him for a fashionable call. At the same time, he brought a pail of honey for Mrs. Norman Pratt, and a pair of moccasins for Mrs. F. L. He wished me to be seated, then gently pulling off my shoes, he put the moccasins on and tied them, as buttons were not yet in use. It has taken the fashion which the red men then had of kneeling and putting on a lady's shoe a long time to become the white man's custom. In the early days, we received many frights from the Indians, but never any harm.

F. L. Pratt, with wife and son, Morganta, and Nathan Williams, in September, 1843, started from Whitewater in their own conveyance and drove to Madison County, N. Y., to spend the winter in the homes of their childhood. In the spring, Mr. Pratt sold his horses, shipped his carriage, and the party returned by the lakes, a number of families coming with us for homes in Wisconsin. After we returned, we bought the Whitewater Hotel. Wm. A. Harding came from

New York City with his bride and boarded with us. R. O'Connor, with his young wife, also boarded with us. I think this was in 1845.

Nathan Williams, on returning from his winter's visit, made up his mind that God did not make man to live alone; so he brought a wife with him to enjoy the blessings and the sorrow which will surely come to each and all. When we came in 1837, deer could be seen in droves of twenty or more, prairie-hens were plentiful, and also quails.

The country was beautiful, the Indians having burned it over every fall so that there was no brush to be seen. The bur-oak trees looked like old orchards, the wild flowers were in bloom, and the whole country looked much more beautiful than does our city park on Main street. The first store was built in 1839 by B. Bosworth, of Illinois. It was where N. Kinney's residence now stands. The frame of the city flouring mill was raised on June 27, 1839, when men came from Lima, Johnstown, LaGrange, and the Fort to assist.

Trippe's log house was on the land near the pond south of the wagon factory, and near the house a large stone oven was built for the occasion. It was filled with prairie chickens, quail pies, venison, pork and beans, corn bread, and rice pudding, all in the oven at once, baking for the raisers. You can judge of the length of the table, which of course was set out of doors, as it took almost a whole piece of sheeting for the table-cloth. The women of the village, six in number, assisted Mrs. Trippe in feeding the hungry. There was no changing plates for dessert. After the men had done justice to both their appetites and the dinner, they went out and played ball* and other games.

*On the prairie, west of Summit St.

BOYHOOD DAYS IN EARLY WHITEWATER.

BY JULIUS C. BIRGE.

"Such was the tenor of the second act
In this new life
Imagination slept,
And yet not utterly. I could not print
Ground where the grass had yielded to the steps
Of a generation of illustrious men
Unmoved. I could not always lightly pass
Through the same gateways, sleep where they had slept,
Wake where they had waked, range that enclosure old,
That garden of strong men, undisturbed."

We are asked to write a few words concerning boyhood life with the pioneers. The valuable reminiscences of Prosper Cravath were written only twenty years after the occurrence of the first events which he narrated. Nearly fifty years more have rolled by since those annals were first published in the Register.

Were it within the scope of this paper, we would offer a tribute to that author, a man of strict integrity and endowed with many remarkable qualities. He, with other strong men and women, who in the years 1837 to 1839 blazed their way through a pathless wilderness and built the first log cabins in the Whitewater valley, have nearly all passed on to the Beyond. The camp fires of their neighbors, the Pottawattomies, have long since died out on the shore, and even the places where the wigwams stood are forgotten, except to a few. We watched the last remnant of that tribe make its silent march through Whitewater onward toward the setting sun more than half a century ago, destined to its reservation. Even the first frame house, built in 1840, has been relegated to humbler uses down by the sleepy bank of the creek where the boys used to wade. Many of the old landmarks have

"Gone glimmering through the dream
Of things that were."

Even the generation which presented the second act of this drama is represented by but a few silvered heads.

Although it seems strange, it is nevertheless true, that the majority of the pioneers themselves, when they reached the West, were mere boys and girls, not more

JULIUS C. BIRGE

(THE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN WHITEWATER)

than 18 to 24 years of age. Yet, in view of the work which they performed and the civilization which they established, they stand out as heroes. Like the fabled shadows of the Brocken, they grow more colossal as they recede.

True, there was some worthless driftwood on this first tide of immigration, which left but little impress on the character of the community, but there was a stronger sentiment, like that which dominated the Pilgrim Fathers, which soon made law and order to rule. The most vigorous and industrious young men and women from the North East, endowed with powers of initiative and the faculty of self-government, peopled Wisconsin, moulded its life and built its schools and churches. Under such influences, the boys and girls of whom we write were reared.

In giving some sketch of their doings, we must descend from the serious level of history to the trifles of child life, and must deal in many personalities.

The Wisconsin child of sixty years ago was not given the prominence accorded to children of to-day. Children might be "seen, but not heard." Silence was a virtue. Industry was required. There were hours of fixed work before and after school. There were chores and errands always to be done. Franklin's maxim, "Early to bed and early to rise," was enforced, especially in the morning, and in the gray dawn the boy with the lantern in the stables was a common sight. The boys and girls, of course, thought that Franklin ought to have attended more to his lightning, rather than to have gone into the precept business. The stores were generally open at 6 a. m., and did not close until the last indolent customer was through playing checkers at night.

Although we were rude in many respects, yet we were taught deference to superiors. We would rarely sit at the table until our elders were seated. In some of the early schools, we were required to salute the teacher on leaving the room, also to bow to passers-by on the highway. In many of our families, the observance of the Sabbath was very strict. In some cases, the

cider was drunk on Saturday nights so that it would not work on Sunday.

There was no trouble with the Indians, as they were friendly. Their ignorance of civilized customs, however, sometimes produced a slight shock. Now and then, while sitting by the open fire at evening, the flat nose of an Indian might be seen pressed against the window pane. In entering the white man's house, they would never knock, but would pass in without ceremony; and on more than one occasion we have seen them file in and go to our cupboard and help themselves to what they desired. Why not ? It was their code and they meant no harm. They had little sense of humor. My parents' first cabin was where Whiton and Walworth streets now join. Some Winnebagoes with their chief called one day and my father, pointing to my mother, jestingly said to the chief, "Swap squaw ?" The chief gave an "Umph" and they soon disappeared. The next day, looking out of the door, my mother discovered the same chief approach with his squaw, evidently to conclude the bargain. Slamming the door, she pulled in the latch string, slid out of the little back window, and, with her infant boy under her arm, made by the back way for Freeman Pratt's cabin.

As early as 1840, a little log house was built on what is now the Trippe lot on Main Street, to be used for general purposes, and a school was held there for a brief period. In 1842, a school was opened by J. B. Hunt in a barn on the Power's lot, east of where the Baptist Church now stands. Though only three years of age, having learned my letters by the aid of the Milwaukee Weekly Sentinel, I was sent to that school to help fill it up, and was at once initiated into Peter Parley's geography, committing the first page which begins

> "This world on which we live, is round
> As any apple ever found."

The attic of the barn was filled with hay, and Mary Billings or Sophie Workman might tell who killed the garter snake which one day fell from the attic to the floor, while the girls scrambled for the top of the benches. A large pond in front of the barn afforded

good sliding when it was frozen over. It was considered the finest sport to break a pathway through the ice, fill our high top boots with water and empty them on the school room floor. Hunt subsequently opened a school in a little frame building on the south side of Main Street. Two rows of seats were on each of two sides of the little room, the front ones having no backs to them, nor desks in front, and were used by us little ones.

A copy of "Olney's Modern Geography," loaned to me daily by Ans. Storm, absorbed much of my time. The thrilling picture on the last page, entitled "A Croccodile Seizing an Ox," was especially interesting. The study of that engraving possibly aided in the development of our high appreciation of that style of art. It followed that, in their effect upon us, the circus bills on Wintermute's barn far surpassed in beauty and splendor the possible effect of any works in the Vatican or Louvre, and prepared all who were able to do so, on the morning of the great show, to go out three miles and meet the real thing. Those beautiful yellow wagons were like the chariots of the blessed, and the elephant was the realization of a boy's love for big things.

Hunt persistently practised oratory upon the pupils. On Monday mornings, his deliverances were magnificent and awe-inspiring. They were invariably addressed from a little square in the center of the room. One morning, while in the midst of an eloquent appeal to our higher natures, the little section of the floor on which he stood suddenly slumped into a hole beneath, and Hunt for a moment disappeared. He was extracted unhurt by the willing hands of the big boys. Investigation disclosed the fact that a rope attached to a temporary support of the scuttle and extending outside to the hands of some bad boy caused the mischief. He failed to ferret out the author of the crime. Both he and the boy have doubtless by this time gone to their reward.

In 1844, the brick school house was built west of where the new library now stands, and C. E. Curtice was an early teacher there. On the north end of the

room, the multiplication table was painted in large figures and was almost daily repeated in unison. On Saturdays, Curtice would lead the entire school in single file through intricate curves, and to the command, "Everybody sing," the room would ring with the inspiring songs

"Children go to and fro'
In a merry, pretty row,"
and
"O come, come away from labor now reposing."

The usual punishment was to put a fool's cap on a boy and stand him in disgrace before the school. Ebenezer Wilcox taught in the old frame Congregational Church in 1844. To describe the things that Ebenezer could not see, and which were before his eyes, would require a volume. During his administration, nearly every boy's bench in the room was perforated with small holes through which a pin attached to a spring beneath could be made to rise by the agency of a connecting string and some bad boy far removed. The effect was to cause any one sitting over one of the selected holes to jump into the air and disturb the school. Frequently a shower of light darts, having pins at the points and paper inserted at the tail, would gently float from the high choir seats in the rear and produce a panic on the front seats. Ebenezer never discovered the cause, although Charley Irish, Si. Whitcomb, Kidd Trippe, John Maynard, and other big boys sat in the high seats. Emma Cravath learned her lessons so readily that she had time to burn. Borrowing a pair of boy's big boots one day she put them on and asked Ebenezer if she might hunt a lost book. The request being granted, she skuffed around the entire room to every seat, time and again, consuming half an hour. Wilcox repeatedly chided the scholars for their laughter, but never seemed to suspect the real cause. His great success was an exhibition with which he closed the school year. "The School for Scandal" was presented with a powerful cast. Harriet Sylvester was the star actress. Charley Irish delivered an eloquent oration on the text "God made man and man made money, God made bees and bees made honey."

There were declamations and recitations. In that school we used the old English Reader, Adams' Arithmetic, and Brown's Grammar.

Among the early school boys, was Charley Niemann, whose father managed the Exchange Hotel when the first big stages ran through from Milwaukee. Charley's father went to Milwaukee and built the Fountain and Menominee houses on West Water Street, and died leaving a fair estate. Charley soon ran through his patrimony and was stranded, with little left except a fiddle, the ability to play it and to sing a song well. He was a jolly good fellow. He soon joined a minstrel troupe and became well known as Harry Wilson. During a theatrical summer vacation, Charley found himself in Whitewater, singing and playing, on a wagon to advertise Hamlin's Wizard Oil. It had been twenty-five years since Charley had visited his old home. At the close of the concert, we sat with Joe Cushing and one or two others on a store step answering Charley's questions. What has become of John Busby, Dan Coneray, Sylvester Dann, and, finally, where is Hen. Sentenn? "You ought to know about Hen," we replied, "he also went with a negro minstrel company." "He couldn't have amounted to much," Charley replied, "what was his stage name?" "It was Harry Pell," was our answer. "Harry Pell! Good Heavens! Pell and I were the end men in the same company for three years, and I never knew it was Hen. Sentenn, but he will shake the tambourine no more." Charley has also gone, long ago.

It was D. Carley who taught in the meeting house in 1849, and later with M. Montague in the Academy. He was a terror. Toddy Pratt, having been marked for punishment, ran to the Pratt barn, put a sheepskin under his shirt, buttoned up his roundabout and was able to take his medicine like a soldier. It was Carley who, long before Grant stood before Vicksburg, repeatedly declared that he would make us learn fractions "if it took all summer."

During those halcyon days, certain individuals stood out prominently by reason of some personal quality or accomplishment. Jack Taft was the greatest fighter.

Charley Birge was the finest skater. Charley Storm made the best kites. Bill Farnsworth was the best runner. The Bluff (now Normal Hill) was the best place for coasting. The baptizing hole was the handiest place for swimming. The most available, almost empty, sugar hogsheads were back of Peck's store. Henry J. Starin had the best apples. When passing his high picket fence it was

> "Sweet to hear the watch dog's honest bark
> Bay deep mouthed welcome"

because the bark told whether the dog was safe in the barn or loose on the place. Bob Williams had remarable strength and daring, and Payson Kellogg, who died on the field of Antietam, was always high in scholarship.

In the early, strenuous days, when we knew nothing of what is now called "summer outings," the trip to Milwaukee, which from infancy was given to me annually, was something never to be forgotten. It was usually made on a load of wheat. The scenery changed when we reached Fox River, and here we would rest for a few moments on the long corduroy bridge which spanned that stream and the adjacent marsh. While the horses were being watered, we would watch the wild fowl which in great numbers found a happy home in the wild rice which bent down that stream. Passing eastward, we at once entered the primitive forest, as dense as any in Wisconsin—but now gone.

Through most of the course, the rough, rooty, and often muddy road was a very narrow lane, bordered on either side by the tall forest trees. Here and there was a small clearing, where magnificent logs of fine sugar maple and other woods, now so valuable, were rolled close enough together to be burned; and thus was destroyed much of the wealth which nature had created. Those who now stop at the Plankinton and the Pfister possibly forget what were their pleasures when they put up at the old-time taverns on the Mukwonago and Prairieville roads.

On one of my trips, at the close of our first long day's drive, we turned our team into Uncle Prude Par-

sons' big barn. The horses being stalled, we went into the tavern, and finding that we could get a bed we went out to the bench where the tin wash basins were, and where hung the towel which had done so long service that it was well saturated with water and perspiration. Having taken our suppers we soon retired. The day had not yet come when every traveler expected a private room with bath at Wisconsin hostelries. We were happy to accept one of the many beds which filled the ball room, leaving only a narrow passage between them. A tin wash basin, a piece of hard soap and a pail of water on a box at each end of the room was ready for the morning toilet. My father and I had a private bed to ourselves; every other bed in the room was occupied. Garments were hung on nearly every bed post. The chorus which is usually heard when many weary men are sleeping in a room had been well started, when the light of a candle at the door awoke me as Parsons' assistant appeared escorting a late arriving guest. Looking over the rows of beds, the escort pointed to one having but one occupant, and said to the guest, "You take that." Now this happened in about the year 1845, when the first epidemic of what Dr. Clark might have called "Scabies," had become prevalent. The original occupant of the bed referred to, noticing the new-comer, as he put down his candle, said, "Are you going to get in here?" The newcomer replied in the affirmative, as he began to pull off his boots behind the middle of his leg. "Say," says the original occupant, "it's only fair for me to tell you that I have got the itch." "Oh, that is all right," says the new man, "if you have got it any worse than I have, I am sorry," and in a moment was ready to crawl in, when the original occupant jumped from the bed, seized his clothing and rushed down stairs, evidently to see Prude Parsons. He did not return, and I have never seen him, so far as I can remember, to this day. The demand for sulphur was very large in those days. On one of these trips, the Milwaukee taverns being crowded, my father and I slept on the buffalo robes in Uncle Ben Throop's warehouse, on East Water street. The skins, laid out flat, were piled in many

places to the ceiling, and represented more buffaloes than now exist on the face of the earth.

Returning once early in the spring, while down on the Palmyra Road in the Scuppernong Marsh, it became apparent that a big fire had been started off in the south, and was driving northward before a stiff south wind. The grass was exceedingly rank, in many places six feet high, and in the early spring especially dry. It was important for safety that we move rapidly for the openings. The fire was coming by leaps and bounds. As it approached, the crackling and roaring was ominous and threatening. The birds which had been lurking, and perhaps nesting, in the grass were flying before the flames, which sent up their tongues to a great height. I have seen several fires on the broad prairies of Iowa and Nebraska, but nothing which was as fierce as those which annually swept over the Scuppernong Valley, and which during those nights lighted our eastern sky.

We had some other diversions. Captain Jesse Pease, who lived at the corner of what is now Main and Second streets, was supposed to be a hero of the War of 1812. The political campaign of 1844 was still stimulating patriotic instincts, and it was apparently thought best to revive the declining military spirit by holding what was known in New England as a General Training. The processes which led to the bringing of the Whitewater yeomanry together are unknown to this writer, but as war has a kind of fascination for nearly every young man and small boy, all of these classes in the vicinity gathered on Main Street on the appointed day to witness the demonstration. Close to Captain Pease's house, the assembled citizen soldiery crowded for orders. Hours passed and no organization apparent to the small boy could be discovered, except that in the absence of even a flint lock rifle a number of persons were arming with sticks and any old thing which would enable them to respond to shoulder arms. The Captain had shouted to the men until he was hoarse, and the troops were finally ordered to report at a later hour. In the meantime, as we are told, the Captain and officers secured some refreshments, after which they returned

in excellent spirits. In due time, the company being formed (but not in a very straight line) it proceeded a little way up Main Street amidst cheers, and in a few minutes returned and stacked arms, and then the "general training" was on. "Not a gun was fired, not a funeral note," and although the training, it is said, continued late into the night it was probably the only one of its kind ever held in Whitewater.

It was about two or three years later that a temperance movement was organized among the children by Rev. M. P. Kinney in the old frame church. Although unable to write legibly, I received my first honor by being elected secretary of the society. The pledge which we were asked verbally to indorse was the following: "I do not think I'll ever drink brandy or gin, whiskey or rum, or anything else that will make drunk come."

There was probably no part of the United States which afforded finer opportunities to the sportsman than did Wisconsin. The flocks of pigeons were almost indescribable in extent. Rising from the southern horizon in the spring of the year, they were often seen to fly in a broad, vast body towards the north. The vanguard would there disappear before the rear of the flock had risen into view. This statement is literally true, but the pigeon has passed away. The home of the canvas back duck was in the wild celery of Lake Koshkonong. Prairie chickens and quails were not strangers in the door yards. Wild geese were common in the early corn fields and on every lake and stream. Jim Worm and Kidd Trippe knew where to find the deer. The boys generally were not sportsmen, but every one of us had access to a shot gun, and in sight of our homes found all the game we needed. The fish were abundant in every stream. Speckled trout, however, were not known in waters south of the Wisconsin River. Three of us in one day caught what was said to be a wagon load of pickerel and bass from Whitewater Lake by fishing through the ice. The big wagon box was certainly half full, and many of the fish were large.

The most interesting hunt, however, that I recall in Wisconsin was with Captain Doubleday, the object being honey. With a span of horses and a wagon, in which was a ladder, pails, etc., we drove out toward "the Island," and, hitching nearly a mile south of Pratt's mill, we entered a little wood on the west side of the road. The Captain at once placed a little honey on a log and watch developments. Soon a bee, discovering the prize, loaded up and sailed off into the woods. Doubleday had ordered silence and in a few minutes it became apparent that the news had been conveyed to all the workers in the bee colony, for bees, in an absolutely straight bee line through the air, extended from the bait to a big hole in a tree forty rods away, all evidently engaged in transportation. It seemed a regular confidence game on the Captain's part. The ladder was brought and reached the hole. Mounting it with a tin pail in hand and a rope attached, Doubleday rolled up his shirt sleeves, leaving his arm bare, thrust his hand into the hollow of the tree, as the bees poured out around him in a dense swarm. Apparently unconcerned, he took out the combs filled with honey, letting them down in the pail which I emptied into other vessels. This was repeated several times. I never learned what caused Doubleday to be immune to the sting of the bee.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER GIRLHOOD.

[Written for the Whitewater Register, in 1884, by MRS. LOUISE WOODBURY PALMITER, then living at Augusta, Wis.]

My first glimpse of Whitewater was taken from the old "dugway" (which then existed at the east end of the mill dam) in the Fall of 1842.

In the spring of that year, my father and two elder brothers caught the western fever, and joined the human tide that was then flowing steadily from the Eastern states to the famous prairies and groves of the West—that land where the "rivers ran honey and pancakes grew on trees," ready to drop for the shaking. Their journey ended at Whitewater, where they selected a building spot, immediately erected a house

and, when it was nearly completed, father returned for the rest of his family, my mother and seven younger children. After a rather tedious tour of the lakes, we landed at Milwaukee. The journey from thence we were obliged to make in a lumber wagon, which, I think, occupied three days, and we were much relieved when, as we came out on the marsh west of the old cemetery, father pointed to a building on the rise of ground beyond, and told us that was home; and, as we halted in the "dugway," my two brothers came from the house to meet us. But the view from that point did not speak very favorably of "the promised land," to my nine-year-old eyes at least; for all that was visible was the back-side of the grist mill (then a very small building, compared with the present one) and two or three log houses which stood on the opposite shore of the mill-pond, one of which was occupied by the miller and family, another by Judge E. Wakeley's father and family, and the other by Dr. Trippe's family. The latter gentleman was the owner of the mill, and an extensive property holder besides. Our own house not being quite ready for occupation, we passed on and entered the "city," and found perhaps a dozen dwelling houses, scattered around like lost sheep. On the north side of Main street, were two stores, one occupied by Philander Peck, the other by T. K. LeBaron, a small hotel, I think where the "Kinney House" now stands, and one blacksmith shop. On the south side Mr. Levi Powers was building another store. Dr. Clarke's office, Henry Printup's harness shop, and Mr. Wakeley's shoe shop, complete the list, so far as my memory serves me, unless it be the old "town-well," which stood at the corner of Main and First streets, proffering its cup of cold water alike to rich and poor, never afraid to advocate its firm temperance principles, to all around. I presume it is now among the things that were, or may be its generous throat is choked with a gaily painted, modern pump, compelling it to yield its crystal water in polite little gasps, like the breathing of a fashionably dressed belle. There was no church edifice, but the members of different denominations all worshiped together in Deacon

Workman's unfinished chamber. I do not remember the names of any of the pastors except Rev. Mr. Case; but it seemed to make little difference whether they listened to a "stiff Presbyterian" or "hard-shell Baptist," it appeared to be satisfying to know that they all believed in and worshipped the same God; and it is doubtful if there was not as much genuine religion gathered in Deacon Workman's chamber as in some of the great churches that flourish in the place now, although, I dare say, some never got any higher than that chamber.

There were two or three houses besides our own on the east shore of the mill-pond, some of which were built with a "cellar-kitchen" on the west side, making them three stories high on that side and two on the street which ran north and south on the east side. The first building south of the "dugway" was owned by a Mr. Prince, (?) and I think some of his descendants still live in the vicinity of Whitewater. The underground story was used by Mr. Oscar Weed (late of Palmyra) for a wagon shop; the upper stories on the street were rented to families. Our own came next, and where the railroad now runs was once a beautiful garden filled with plants and precious shrubs, brought from our eastern home, there being scarcely one that did not have some pleasant memory mingling with its fragrance and bringing to mind the face and form of a dear absent friend. But progress never pauses to sentimentalize, and the cars now rush past with an exultant shriek, seeming to glory in the ruin which was wrought for their advancement.

The next house was not a house but a sort of wigwam, made by placing the ends of a long pole in the crotches of two trees which stood the required distance apart, and leaning boards on each side of it like a roof, giving it the appearance of a house just sprouting from the ground. A few boards were laid down for the beds to lie on, otherwise the bare earth was all the floor indulged in. A blanket hung at one end and the stovepipe ornamented the other. No daylight was afforded, except what struggled through an occasional crack, no furniture worth mentioning, none of the luxuries and

but few of the necessaries of life. The imagination can picture what such a home must have been. Yet a family of six and a tame sand-hill crane occupied the humble quarters amicably, and were as fat, black, and saucy and nearly as intelligent as the Pottawattomie Indians in this region. I must not omit the flock of geese, which were as well worthy of attention as the human bipeds and shared the same roof whenever they felt disposed. The flock consisted of both tame and wild fowls. The wild ones were very ill-natured and, through fear of them and the crane, the dogs and children made a wide detour by the premises.

The next house was owned by a Mr. Taft, and occupied by his family of six. Then came one which belonged to Dr. Trippe, the home of his man of all work, Orra Ostrander, who had a large family, mostly girls, the youngest of whom was the bosom friend of my girlhood.

Farther on, where the paper mill now stands, was the old saw-mill, also owned by Dr. Trippe, then in full operation, and the favorite resort of all the idlers in town, old and young. About half a mile beyond, near the head of the grist-mill pond, stood a log house which was the residence then of Mr. Orville Cooley, but soon exchanged owners and Mr. Thompson Ferris moved his family into it, building the frame house north a few years after, and deserting the old one entirely. Mr. Ferris had a large and agreeable family, and some of the most pleasant memories of my girlhood are connected with that old log house and the hours spent with his children and others, searching for shells on the shore of the pond, for wild flowers and curious mosses in the woods, or resting our tired limbs in the great pole swing which was suspended from the giant oaks by the roadside, in the edge of the woods.

Our rambles generally extended as far as the old saw-mill, near which we always found the rarest flowers, the most graceful ferns, and the most curious assortment of mosses of any place that was favored with our notice. And I venture to say that the haunts that were not known to us were few and far between. To our older eyes no "moccasins" are as golden, no blue-

bells as blue, and no ferns quite as graceful, as those we found growing along with the crimson columbine, in the hidden nooks around the old mill. Our pleasure was sometimes marred by a striped snake gliding suddenly through the grass, like a stray rainbow flash, or the advent of a great, awkward mud turtle waddling in the path before us, frightening the timid ones, and causing a general stampede, but forgotten the next moment in our zeal for unearthing Nature's treasures. The programme was occasionally varied by a shower-bath taken under the waste-weir, or catching minnows with a pin hook in the brook below the dam, winding up our adventures with a visit to Mr. Brown, the sawyer.

On the north side of the "dugway" the first house and the only one at the time, I think, was owned by a Mr. Thomas Van Horn, who also owned a brick-yard. He was a somewhat comical character with a quizzical look in his eyes which gave the impression that he was always poking fun on the sly. It proved very annoying to my rather bashful and sensitive self, for, being an intimate playmate of his daughter, I was often brought in contact with him, sometimes too close to suit my idea of propriety; for nothing delighted him more than to draw his daughter on one knee, and myself on the other (if he could get the chance), which proceeding usually brought on a storm of indignation that he pretended to admire exceedingly.

Yet we were pretty good friends, notwithstanding, and I enjoyed visiting there, spending many a pleasant hour watching the brickmakers, or in my favorite pastime, that of rambling in the woods near by with his daughter in search of Nature's hidden beauties.

Beyond the cemetery and near where the reaper factory now stands, was the home of Mr. Ephraim Conger, a fine old gentlemen and an intimate friend of my father's. The two used to enjoy themselves dearly with their bass viols and old-fashioned singing books, and the quaint sol, mi, fa's represented by quainter characters. I wonder why, in the present rage for the antique, those old, angular quavers and semi-quavers do not come into fashion again. They would be just

lovely. Mr. Conger had a large family of boys and girls. He came West after my father did, in '43, I think. I may be mistaken, but among my earliest recollections, is that of the merry times which the young people of the three families, (Messrs. Ferris, Conger, and my father's) used to have together. They made quite a large party alone, but the circle never seemed complete and satisfactory all around until they were joined by C. E. Curtice, Joseph Sanford and Oscar Weed, said gentlemen afterward proving the cause of the mutual attraction by marrying the three finest girls of the group.

Nearly all were good musicians, either vocally or instrumentally, and often met at one or other of the three homes to enjoy the favorite pastime of all, that of music. I used to look forward with great pleasure to the time for them to meet at our house, for, being an ardent lover of the art, no greater favor could be granted me, than to be allowed to sit in some remote corner to listen, sometimes venturing to try my own voice in a feeble sort of way, afraid of making a loud noise, as experience had taught me early that "children should be seen, not heard;" for no sooner did "Charley Curtice" or "Doc Ferris" hear one of my "strains of melody," than I would be immediately brought out from my corner by one of them into a more conspicuous position. But love of music generally conquered my timidity, and my whereabouts was soon forgotten.

I wonder if there are any of my old school-mates living who remember the log school-house that used to stand on Main Street west of town, nearly opposite the site of J. J. Starin's present residence? A family by the name of Cutler occupied a small, red frame house, which stood where the *brick building now stands. Our first school was taught in that little rustic building, by Mr. F. C. Patterson, a long, lean, lank, limber lawyer, whose gait was always a source of amusement to the scholars. (We were young, remember, and therefore excusable.) He walked as though afraid of too close contact with mother earth, and with wings

*The old "little brick," on "the flat-iron."

half plumed for flight. He was a good teacher and pleasant gentleman, notwithstanding his peculiarities. The old school-house was afterward degraded to a cooper's use, and was obliged to admit Mr. Spooner's barrels to the places once occupied by the young hopefuls of the pioneer town, and gradually it sank lower in the social scale until it was finally razed to the ground. Not even a log left upon which one could sit and muse over its fallen glory. Our next school was taught by Mr. John Dunn, in a small frame building which stood a little south of Freeman Pratt's, who then lived on the hill, east of where the Baptist Church now stands. It answered the double purpose of barn and school-house, the loft being used for storing hay, and we were uncomfortably startled one day to see a striped snake dangling its head downward, like a trapeze performer, from a crack in the floor overhead, and after calmly surveying the scene, as if enjoying our consternation, dropping gracefully to the floor, where it was speedily dispatched by the teacher. Mr. Dunn was not done enough to be a good teacher, for about all that we were taught that season was to spell "Ticonderoga" forward and backward at the same time, commencing Ti—con, con—ti, and so on through the whole word, adding a syllable each time; the last rendering would be Ti-con-de-ro-ga, Ga-ro-de-con-ti. It was rather hard on the memory of some, but it did not begin to equal the "abominable - bumble - bee - with - his-tail-cut-off," which my mother used to spell for our edification in those days.

I suppose the readers of the Register are waiting patiently all this time, to hear who was our favorite teacher in the by-gone days, and I think the "old settlers" will acquiesce in the opinion that the late C. E. Curtice was as popular in that capacity as he was in society. He was the first teacher who tried the merits of the old brick school-house, which was built about that time, and stood opposite the Baptist Church.

How well I remember his kind, genial face, lighted by the smiling gray eyes, that, somehow, never could assume that stern, dignified expression so becoming to one who teaches the "young idea how to shoot." He

did not need to rule with a "rod of iron," for we all loved him well enough to obey his rules without compulsion. He usually adopted the old Quaker's plan, who coaxed his stubborn donkey to draw his load, by holding a turnip before his nose just out of reach until the required task was performed, then rewarded him with the coveted mouthful, thereby saving his time, strength, temper, and whip-lash. Mr. Curtice was a good singer and very fond of vocal music. He taught us his favorite songs, of which he seemed to have a never-failing supply, and the most pleasant occupation of the day was the singing of some cheerful school song or rollicking round, which was joined in heartily by large and small; and we always seemed to resume our studies with renewed ardor after each musical feast.

Such simple songs as "Children go to and fro," or "Old chairs to mend," would not be considered "the thing" for this aesthetic generation, but their memory is sweet to old-fashioned people. We had teachers in after years, good, bad, and indifferent, but no one ever quite "filled the bill," in the estimation of the young people, so well as "Charley Curtice."

But the memories of those early days are not all pleasant to recall. Some are sad and even tragic. The saddest event of my childhood was the death of a little brother, only three years of age, who lost his life in the burning of our house, April 14th, 1844. It happened in the forenoon, after the men of the family had all gone to their work for the day, and mother had gone out to see a sick neighbor, leaving myself (only eleven years old) and three younger children playing in the summer kitchen. Little Eugene went in search of her, thinking she had gone into the chamber, although we did not miss him until we heard him crying. I ran up the first stairway which opened into an unfinished room that father was using temporarily for a shop, and found shavings and lumber all in a blaze, and the child's crying came from the chamber above, where it was then dangerous for me to venture. Poor little fellow, he had gone to a cruel death instead of the safety of his mother's arms. I was too frightened to think of anything but running into the street and rousing the neigh-

bors. Every citizen was soon on the spot, and left no means untried to rescue him or extinguish the flames, but it was not to be.

A blackened, shapeless thing was all they found after the fire had done its work. But kind hands lifted it just as tenderly, heads were bared just as reverently over the poor remains as though there had been blue eyes to close, or dimpled hands to fold. We supposed he must have set the shavings on fire by putting some in the shop stove, then went up stairs to find his mother and did not dare to return.

Another sad incident was the death by drowning of Mrs. Sherwood, my mother's youngest sister, in the mill-pond just below our house. It was Sabbath evening, and herself and husband were on their way to attend prayer-meeting, which had been appointed at our house, on account of mother's health, and father being unwilling to leave her. It being early in the spring, the pond was still frozen over, with the exception of a strip on our side which had been worn away by the action of the water in the channel of the original creek. The ice was still intact on their side and, to shorten their walk, they started to cross, as had been their wont through the winter, unaware of the danger, as it was quite dusk, until they walked off into the water. Their cry was heard by a neighbor, who happened to be out of doors, and who soon roused the village. They were rescued from the water, after some trouble, and Mr. Sherwood soon recovered. Every means was tried that could be thought of to resuscitate his wife, but all to no avail. Life's joys and sorrows were over for her, and no anguished cry of husband, children, or sister could call her back. It was a sad blow to my mother to be bereft of the sister for whose sake she had left the old eastern home and all its comforts, and had followed her to a strange land.

Dear patient mother! I was too young then to think of anything but my own childish troubles, but when looking back, now, with a woman's eyes, the trials that have crossed my own pathway (and they are not few), seem very small, compared with hers. Trial after trial followed each other thick and fast until her cup must

have been full to the brim. Yet she always wore such a placid, cheerful face, ever ready to sympathize with and do for others, seldom speaking of her own troubles, that none but those who loved her best knew of the undercurrent of sorrow flowing beneath. But her trials were over long since, and a white headstone, which can be seen from my window, gleaming in the winter sunshine, marks the spot where she sleeps.

REMINISCENCES OF THE WOMEN OF EARLY WHITEWATER.

BY MRS. D. S. COOK.

Years ago, a meeting was held in Boston to commemorate the landing of the Pilgrims. A dinner was given and toasts were in order. The Pilgrim Fathers had been properly toasted, their strength of character lauded, their trials and hardships commiserated, when "Fanny Fern," a noted writer of that day, offered the following toast: "The Pilgrim Mothers, who not only had their full share of the hardships and privations of pioneer life but had also the Pilgrim Fathers to endure."

Perhaps something similar might be said of the pioneer mothers of Wisconsin; though possibly the stern qualities of character which distinguished the Pilgrim fathers had been softened somewhat since those early days when hardness and sternness typified the attributes of the Divinity, in whom they firmly and devoutly believed.

Fortunately, the pioneers of Wisconsin were, as a rule, young and full of hope and courage, otherwise the life would have been less endurable. The Great Lakes, lying between them and the comforts they had once enjoyed, made it impossible for them to get fresh supplies, and their privations were many. Added to the intense cold of winter, and the many discomforts of summer, there were Indians and wild animals to fear, and fever and ague was their ever present enemy. Sometimes, there were not enough well ones to care for the sick; and often the cup of cold water, carried from house to house by the hands of a child, was the

MRS. ROSEPHA TRIPPE
(WIFE OF DR. JAMES TRIPPE)

only comfort and aid that the suffering ones received. In short, all the varied experiences that came into the lives of pioneer women, were theirs, and they were bravely borne. The unceasing toil that marked the lives of the stronger sex, was theirs, and together they enjoyed the recompense. Such pleasures as came to them were accepted with grateful hearts, and when sorrow was their portion they were strong to endure.

In later years, it was a rich treat, to listen to the reminiscences of such women as Mrs. Rosepha Trippe, Mrs. Melinda Pratt, Mrs. Maria Cravath, Mrs. Clarissa Peck, Mrs. Delilah Kinney, and others, as they met in social gatherings of the neighborly sort.

It was affirmed by these narrators that Mrs. Trippe held herself superior to the others because she had a parlor and they had none. To be sure, she had but one room in her cabin by the side of the pond, but half of her rough floor was covered by a yarn carpet and as a protection from the mosquitoes, her bed had draperies of heavy bobbinet lace. In one corner of this carpeted space, was a locked cupboard which contained a traditional set of French china; but it was too precious a possession for their common little tea-drinkings and never was it brought out, until upon the memorable occasion when a protege of the family, Miss Fanny Ostrander, was married to Leander Birge. Mrs. Trippe also had a set of chairs with four legs and a back, while some of the others had only three-legged stools, their seats being cross-cut sections of oak trees. She also had a stone oven outside her kitchen door, a possession much coveted by those whose bakings were done in Dutch ovens and bake-kettles in front of the old-time fire-place. Mrs. Pratt's pride and superiority were manifested in the possession of a cat, the only cat, so far as known, in the Territory of Wisconsin. Melinda's cat was borrowed by her friends from time to time when the mice became too aggressive in their little homes, and of course he was treated like a prince. Once upon a time, Mrs. Leander Birge borrowed him, giving her promise that he should be carefully guarded and safely returned. In their yard stood an empty barrel, and one sad day the cat had taken possession

of this. Mr. Birge, not knowing that the cat was there, chose the bunghole of the barrel for target practice and, by some hocus pocus, shot off the poor cat's tail close to its body. Speechless with remorse, Mr. Birge took the mutilated cat on his arm, the severed tail in his hand, and returned them to their owner with regrets and apologies. The cat survived, and after careful treatment, resumed his warfare on rats, mice, gophers, and snakes, but never again was he loaned to the neighbors.

Mrs. Cravath had a great love for children and, corralling them whenever she could, she taught them the alphabet as well as songs and Scripture texts, and regaled them with her delicious doughnuts, which were made fresh every day for her rather exacting husband; for Prosper—if we must say it—was a true Pilgrim father, and his good wife Maria was not only a true Pilgrim mother, but a mother in Israel as well; and all, old or young, who came under her influence were benefited in many ways.

And there were others. I cannot mention all, but I have in mind Mrs. Marcena Peck, Mrs. Giles Kinney, Mrs. Seth Billings, Mrs. Henry Keep, Mrs. Workman, Mrs. Jane Pratt, Mrs. Dr. Clarke and her sainted mother, Mrs. Stedman, whose very presence in the sick room was like the balm of Gilead to those who received her ministrations. Her handsome, cap-crowned face and her cheery voice brought untold comfort to the sick and weary, and her devoted Christian life was an example and an inspiration to many who otherwise would have fainted by the way. Mrs. Stedman's last act of mercy was the care of a sick friend who was suffering from a contagious disease. The friend recovered, but Mrs. Stedman contracted the disease and died, regretted by all who knew her.

Mrs. Billings was another of the very earliest settlers whose life, though a very retiring, unobtrusive one, was a benediction to the sick and poor. At births and deaths and in days of illness and misfortune, she was ever a ready and skilful helper. She was a busy woman but always found time to do good. With tireless feet and willing hands, she went on her errands of

MRS. S. M. BILLINGS

mercy. No night was too dark or cold; no day too rough and stormy to keep her from a mission of helpfulness, especially to the unfortunate and neglected. Her training was love, patience, and good sense. She exemplified in her own life the "virtuous woman" described by Solomon. She passed peacefully to her reward on her eightieth birthday.

When Philander Peck and wife first came to Whitewater, they boarded with Giles Kinney, who lived on what is known as the Starin farm, on Walworth Avenue. Mrs. Peck used often to come to the hamlet riding on horseback, seated on a sheep-skin behind her husband's saddle; and there was never a merry-making or a tea-drinking that was not made the more enjoyable by her presence. One day, some of the ladies were invited by Mrs. Peck to take tea with her at the farm. The only steeds available for their transportation across the prairie were oxen, and their vehicle was a lumber wagon. The journey to the farm was made in safety and the visit was a most enjoyable one, but on starting for home, one of the ox-bows became loosened and, to the consternation of the women, the ox escaped and refused to be caught by the unskilled teamsters. But these pioneer women were fruitful in resources and (what would we not give for a photograph) one by one the women *in turn bent their heads to the yoke, while those who rode encouraged her as best they could by their witticisms and cheers.

Another time, they visited at the same place, this time going on foot. On the way home, a thunder storm threatened and they tried to hasten, but Pitt Cravath who feared neither thunder, lightning, nor the threats of women, refused to budge. Grasping his hands, they strove to drag him along, but the boy dug his little heels into the ground and sang:

"Here we go, to and fro',
In a merry, pretty row,
Footsteps light, faces bright,
'Tis a happy, happy sight," etc.

It was a happy sight and occasion for the youngster, but the poor women preferred the ox episode.

*The editor does not guarantee the literal truth of this particular part of the incident.

Needless to say, they were drenched before reaching home, as no possible shelter presented itself save an occasional oak tree, and oak trees were not considered a safe refuge in a thunder storm.

When these women were living, it was vastly entertaining to listen to these reminiscences, both grave and gay. As a rule, the strenuousness of the early pioneer days was seemingly forgotten while they reveled in the memories which made that life endurable and enjoyable. However, the reminiscences were sometimes grave as well as gay. One woman, after her children were grown and grandchildren were her glory and pride, related this story:

"When John and I were first married and settled on our little prairie farm, we were so happy that we were almost afraid that we didn't enjoy religion. Then the twins came. They were sickly babies and peevish, and night and day they needed our care. But the father had to work in the fields; I had all the indoor work to do and the garden to look after, and all the time the twins claimed my attention and needed it. I tell you I then had to live close to the Lord."

But who shall say that those days of toil and privation were not richer and fuller than were later days when riches had come to some and comforts to all? Youth, with its hopefulness and courage had now left them, death had robbed some of them of their choicest treasures. And yet, in their luxurious sunset days, they could look back over the hills and valleys of memory and see the lingering brightness of those early days which still made in their hearts a glad, sweet song.

WHITEWATER IN THE WAR.

BY HON. E. D. COE.

Whitewater came up to the war period with lamps trimmed and burning. The citizens were nearly all of Eastern origin, and had for the most part been raised in an atmosphere of strong anti-slavery sentiment. Some had been schooled in the severe radicalism of the Liberty party, some came from the anti-slavery wing of the Democratic party of New York, known as "Barn-

burners," and many had given loyal support to the candidates of the well-purposed but short-lived Free Soil party. The aggressions of the slave power for the previous two decades had irritated and angered the general sentiment of the North. The repeal of the Missouri compromise, which threw open the western territories to slave occupation where it had been forbidden in case Missouri were permitted to come into the Union as a slave state; the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law in Northern communities; the personal violence offered Senator Sumner and other Northern leaders! the border ruffian outrages in Kansas; the hanging of fanatical John Brown, and many other incidents of a tendency to embitter sectional feeling, had set up an inflammatory condition generally, and nowhere more than among the earnest, honest people of Walworth County. It was not believed until the very last that the South would persist to the point of actual separation. The ordinances of secession and the open preparations for war were looked upon as mere bluff. But when Sumpter was fired on there was no longer doubt or hesitancy; the tension was broken and no community came to the front more alive with patriotic fervor and more ready to do full patriotic duty than did Whitewater. A meeting of citizens filled Metropolitan Hall pursuant to a call following immediately upon President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers. Both political parties were represented in the chairmanship, in the persons of Geo. G. Williams and J. L. Pratt, thus indicating the absolute unity of local sentiment upon the great isue of the hour. It was determined, after numerous rousing speeches had been made, to raise a whole company at Whitewater. This was accomplished before the month was over, and Charles E. Curtice, principal of the public schools, was chosen captain, and Frank L. Kiser first lieutenant. Alfred E. Chaffee was made second lieutenant in September, after serving as first sergeant. The company, known as "The Whitewater Light Infantry," mustered 103 strong, was inspected by Col. S. A. Bean, June 12th, and on the 15th of June it joined the Fourth Regiment at Camp Utley, Racine, as "Co. A." Before going, it received a beauti-

ful flag, the gift of Mrs. George Esterly; a Bible was furnished each man by Rev. E. J. Miner; pin cushions, needles, and pins were given by the ladies, and bouquets by Miss Frank Cheney. One citizen, A. Sentenn, saw the last two of his five sons go with the company, the three others having enlisted previously.

At a meeting held at Metropolitan Hall, April 20th, it had been voted to pay to the wife of each volunteer $5.00 per month and $2.00 for each child. In two days, the necessary fund had reached a total of $7,000, exclusive of $1,000 given from the village treasury. This spirit of liberality and of readiness to stand by the government and its defenders, knew no abatement at Whitewater until the last rebel had laid down his arms and the flag floated unchallenged over every foot of the country's domain.

In September, 1861, another call for troops was made, and J. L. Pratt was commissioned by the governor of the state to raise a company. He set to work with energy, and in November reported a full company, known as the "Lander Guards," named in honor of Congressman John F. Potter's second in his famous affair with Pryor of Virginia. Several adjoining towns contributed to the raising of this company. It was furnished with a flag and other needful gifts, the same as its predecessor. It went to Janesville, November 2d, and became Co. H of the Thirteenth Regiment, with J. L. Pratt as captain, C. S. Noyes first lieutenant, and Robert Glover second lieutenant.

Two more calls were made for troops in the summer of 1862, and E. S. Redington was commissioned to raise a company. On the 16th of August, the company went into camp at Milwaukee and became Co. D of the Twenty-eighth Regiment. H. N. Hayes went out as first lieutenant and James M. Mead as second lieutenant. The latter died six months later at Helena, Ark. His funeral at Whitewater was attended by an immense concourse of mourning friends, as he was widely and most favorably known.

Several other organizations received recruits from Whitewater, as will be seen by the list appended hereto. It is to the credit of the town that it always kept

ahead of the calls upon it, and at one time, when the county was 581 behind its quota, Whitewater was fifteen to the good. By subscription and tax, fully $50,000 was raised in Whitewater to pay bounties and support the families of volunteers. On balancing the books, it was reported that "only $75 of the bounty fund had been uncollected, that Asher Castle's cow was not used and Rev. O. Montague's house was returned." This venerable patriot had enlisted but could not pass the doctors, and so had offered his house to the cause. The zeal for going to the front even reached down among the boys, and one sturdy little fellow came away from the recruiting office in tears because it was discovered that he had pieced out his small stature by packing an inch of paper in the heels of his shoes. Another bunch of half a dozen boys ran away to Milwaukee, later on, and were accepted as recruits, because the test was not so severe as at the beginning. They feared that they might be followed by one or more of their fathers, and Fred L. Day was put on guard at the depot in Milwaukee because he claimed to be immune, as his father had said often and with emphasis that if he should run away to enlist he would not be followed. But when the train stopped the first man to descend was Day, Sr.; the kid was promptly collared, the whole lot of young patriots was rounded up, and all were on their homeward way the same afternoon.

Whitewater plainly did its full duty in those days of anxiety and sorrow, and the work of the men was nobly seconded by that of the women. Many who went to the front were never seen at home again, and many came back to carry through life the burdens of wounds and broken health. It is probable that the missing are represented in every national cemetery, some with headboards suitably inscribed, and many remembered and honored only by those pathetic monuments, of which one is to be seen in our own Hillside, "To the Unknown Dead."

ROSTER OF WHITEWATER VOLUNTEERS.

The following roster shows the enlistments credited to Whitewater during the Civil War according to official records:

First Wisconsin Cavalry.

Dr. Henry Cansdell, also in 22d Inft. and 1st Battery.
Rev. Geo. H. Fox, was also captain in the 16th.
L. H. Rand, Bat. Q. M.
Jesse B. Hamilton, Co. A.
William Noel, Co. E.
Paul C. Stillman, Co. E.

Third Wisconsin Cavalry.

Capt. Fernando C. Kiser, Co. D.
Paul Colburn, Co. D.
James P. Crego, Co. D.
Henry L. Royce, Co. D.
LaFayette Stone, Co. D.
John Storm, Co. D.
James Nolan, Co. H.
James K. Scoville, Co. H.
Henry L. Royce, Co. L.
Albert Shugart, Co. M.
Herman Wilbers, Co. M.
John Winer, Co. D.
James Nolan, Co. G.

Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry.

Charles E. Curtice, Adjt.-Captain Co. A.
Frank L. Kiser, 1st Lt. Co. A.
Philo A. Castle, 1st Lt. Co. A.
Alfred E. Chaffee, 1st Lt. Co. A.
Gilbert B. Finch, 1st Lt. Co. A.
Orlando O. Allen, Co. A.
Homer W. Beckley, Co. A.
Amos H. Beckhart, Co. A.
Newcomb Bingham, Co. A.
Marshall E. Boswell, Co.A.
Charles L. Branch, Co. A.
Wilber N. Brewer, Co. A.
John W. Bridge, Co. A.
John Burnham, Co. A.
Joseph F. Brown, Co. A.
Jerome H. Buck, Co. A.
Charles Cadman, Co. A.
Lewis Castle, Co. A.
Joseph A. Chamberlain, Co. A.
James G. Conklin, Co. A.
Jehiel J. Criger, Co. A.
Wm. H. Dake, Co. A.
Thomas Duffy, Co. A.
Oliver Keaton, Co. A.
Wm. R. Farnsworth, Co.A.
John Felch, Co. A.
Chester E. W. Felch, Co.A.
Samuel D. Ferguson, Co.A.
Jacob Freelar, Co. A.
Walter Goodenough, Co.A.
Charles A. Green, Co. A.
Fred'k B. Hamilton, Co.A.
John W. Harrington,Co.A.
Franklin Keith, Co. A.
Clark M. Kenyon, Co. A.
Austin Kettleson, Co. A.
Walter M. King, Co. A.
Charles Kribs, Co. A.
Calvin S. Lovejoy, Co. A.
Wm. T. Ludeman, Co. A.
Fred'k W. Ludeman,Co.A.
William W. Mallo, Co. A.

Josiah C. McManus, Co. A.
William H. Moffit, Co. A.
Marcus M. Morton, Co. A.
John Murphy, Co. A.
Nelson Neilson, Co. A.
Alanson Plumb, Co. A.
Stephen Preedy, Co. A.
Daniel A. Proctor, Co. A.
Franklin L.Robinson,Co.A.
John Rowe, Co. A.
James Scott, Co. A.
Frederick Shaller, Co. A.
David E. Simmonds, Co.A.
Ira Swim, Co. A.
Jerome Swim, Co. A.
Charles Vodre, Co. A.
Major P. Webb, Co. A.
Wm. H. Wenham, Co. A.
Ole Wilson, Co. A.
Gideon J. Wire, Co. A.
Charles F. Simmons, Co. B.
Obediah Doriskill, Co. B.
Jerome B.Humphrey,Co.B.
Wm. Newton, Co. B.
Daniel A. Proctor, Co. B.
Peter Elbers, Co. E.
Martin H. Dake, Co. F.
Charles Simmons, Co. F.
Martin H. Dake, Co. K.

First Battery, Light Artillery.

Henry Berges.
William Criger.

Thirteenth Battery, Light Artillery.

Geo. L. Cross, Sr. 1st Lt.
Alfred E. Chaffee, Jr. 1st Lt.
Samuel Bond,
Felix Boyle,
Willard S. Branch,
Robert A. Campbell,
Edward F. Clark,
George E. Dancy,
Lucien H. Fisk,
James Fryer,
Addison Green,
Charles A. Green,
William Hall,
John J. Holcomb,
Charles P. Hunt,
Americus W. Jones,
Henry L. Jones,
Spencer T. Redford,
Morris E. Rockwell,
Michael Saunders,
August W. Schultz,
George Sewright,
Thomas Simpson,
Henry C. Stevens,
Hiram Stoner,
George D. Thatcher,
William Walsh,
William West,
William Westphall,
Thomas Wickett,
George N. Wing.

First Regiment, Heavy Artillery.

John Demroe, C. L.
August Karhetski, Co. L.
William Kinyon, Co. L.
Lars Oleson, Co.
Samuel Dutcher (Recruits not on Co. rolls).

First Regiment Infantry (3 months).

Louis W. Sentenn, Co. C.

First Regiment Infantry (3 years).

Edson Moore, Co. B.
John C. Skillen, Co. B.
Henry Wandall, Co. B.

Third Regiment Infantry.

Lorenzo D. Johnson, Co. I.
James Fery (unassigned).

Sixth Regiment Infantry.

William G. Allen, Co. D.
John W. Rogers, Co. D.

Seventh Regiment Infantry.

Menander O. Senteen, Co. I.
Benjamin Sentenn, Co. G.

Ninth Regiment Infantry.

Leonhardt Holl, Co. D.

Tenth Regiment Infantry.

George F. Alverson, Co. K.

Eleventh Regiment Infantry.

Henry Fryer, Co. C.
Seldon Huntley, Co. C.
Frank A. Huntley, Co. C.
Alonzo Meracle, Co. C.
John Tessin, Co. C.
Philander Wilber,
Richard B. Lynn, Co. D.

Thirteenth Regiment Infantry.

Maj. Chas. S. Noyes (from Capt. Co. H.)
Elisha G. Horton, 1st Asst. Surg.
Erick Knudson (Band)
Andrew Larson (Band)
John F. Moore, Co. A.
James Slocum, Co. B.
Melvin M. Webb, Co. B. (trans. to Band)
David S. Lane, Co. C.
Capt. Jos. L. Pratt, Co. H.

Edgar J. Pratt, Captain Co. H.
Robert Glover, 1st. Lt. Co. H.
Charles C. Graham, 2d Lt. Co. H.
Frederick Bullock, Co. H.
Alonzo L. Castle, Co. H.
John C. Dobie, Co. H.
Ossias Elliot, Co. H.
Charles Ellis, Co. H.
John W. Gilson, Co. H.
Harvey Gunderson, Co. H.
William H. Hall, Co. H.
Frederick Herzog, Co. H.
Ole Jacobson, Co. H.
Sylvanus O. Larkin, Co. H.
Garret Lasher, Co. H.
Gilbert N. Manning, Co. H.
Mountford L. McCarthy, Co. H.
John McGee, Co. H.
William Milne, Co. H.
Simon Nelson, Co. H.
Oliver Nelson, Co. H.
Ole Olson, Co. H.
Martin Olson, Co. H.
Ole Osmonson, Co. H.
William Parsons, Co. H.
Daniel E. Perkins, Co. H.
Joel A. Pratt, Co. H.
Paul Ramberg, Co. H.
Lalemand H. Rand, Co. H.
Geo. H. Rankin, Co. H.
William Rolof, Co. H.
John C. Salverson, Co. H.
Robert Smith, Co. H.
John Smith, Co. I.
DeWitt C. Green, Co. K.

Fifteenth Regiment Infantry.

Hans C. Sorenson, Co. C.

Sixteenth Regiment Infantry.

Geo. H. Fox, Capt. Co. B.
Randolph A. Fox, Co. B.

Seventeenth Regiment Infantry.

John Keenan, 1st—Co. F.
John Keenan, 2d—Co. F.
John McBride, Co. F.
John Roach, Co. F.
Thomas Walsh, Co. F.

Twentieth Regiment Infantry.

Edgar E. Ellis, 1st Lt. Co. D.
William H. Farnsworth, 2d Lt. Co. D.
William Cox, Co. D.
Charles H. Drake, Co. D.
Edgar C. Delano, Co. D.
W. G. Jennings, Co. D.
George W. King, Co. D.
Freeman T. Knowlton, Co. D.

Twenty-second Regiment Infantry.

Henry W. Cansdell, Surg. Jerome Barbank.

Twenty-fourth Regiment Infantry.

Edwin W. Cheney, Co. A.

Twenty-seventh Regiment Infantry.

Ole Nelson Falk, 1st Lt. Co. H.
Louis Ammon,
John Hanson, Co. H.

Twenty-eighth Regiment Infantry.

Edmund B. Gray, Lt. Col.
Jerome B. Magill, Adj.
Lewis K. Hawes, 1st Asst. Surg.
James B. Schrom.
William Durant, Co. A.
Henry Heiden, Co. A.
Joseph Shabino, Co. A.
Edward S. Redington, Capt. Co. D.
Hiram N. Hayes, 1st Lt. Co. D.
James B. Schrom, 1st Lt. Co. D.
Henry H. Watts, 1st Lt. Co. D.
James M. Mead, 2d Lt. Co. D.
James A. Baldwin, Co. D.
Charles Bonnett, Co. D.
Lewis Carpenter, Co. D.
James J. Caward, Co. D.
Garret Clement, Co. D.
Samuel Clement, Co. D.
Thomas Conroy, Co. D.
Henry A. Cox, Co. D.
George Criger, Co. D.
Thomas Dancy, Co. D.
Edward Dann, Co. D.
George DeGroat, Co. D.
Peter Deilmann, Co. D.
Wm. D. Dowling, Co. D.
William Durant, Co. D.
John Early, Co. D.
Hiram Edwards, Co. D.
Franz Faust, Co. D.
Benedict Feiss, Co. D.
Robert Firth, Co. D.
David N. Goodrich, Co. D.
John Grant, Co. D.
Frederick Haage, Co. D.
Jesse Hare, Co. D.
John W. Harrison, Co. D.
Alonzo W. Hayes, Co. D.
Clesson A. Hendrickson, Co. D.
George Hills, Co. D.
James A. Hodge, Co. D.
Charles Holmes, Co. D.
Charles Hudson, Co. D.
Patrick Keenan, Co. D.
Job Kershaw, Co. D.
Francis Kinney, Co. D.
Charles Kuhn, Co. D.
John Kynaston, Co. D.
Michael Larkin, Co. D.

Garret Lasher, Co. D.
John H. Lasher, Co. D.
Henry Lingermann, Co. D.
Francis X. Mayer, Co. D.
William Maynard, Co. D.
Isaac Miller, Co. D.
Aaron Montford, Co. D.
Peter J. Nelson, Co. D.
Gilbert E. Nickerson, Co. D.
Gilbert Olson, Co. D.
Michael Ostermier, Co. D.
Charles Z. Pierce, Co. D.
John J. Redmond, Co. D.
Charles E. Robbins, Co. D.
Charles W. Rockwell, Co. D.
John W. Rodgers, Co. D.
Henry Burch, Co. D.
Andrew Saright, Co. D.
Charles Scholl, Co. D.
Christopher Scholl, Co. D.
Chas. W. Schroble, Co. D.
John Shulz, Co. D.
Chas. H. Simpson, Co. D.
George Smith, Co. D.
Oscar Smith, Co. D.
Salmon L. Strong, Co. D.
Mathias Smith, Co. D.
James Taylor, Co. D.
John Taylor, Co. D.
Jacob Thomas, Co. D.
Patrick Timlin, Co. D.
George Trautman, Co. D.
Edward Troy, Co. D.
George F. Tucker, Co. D.
Charles A. Ware, Co. D.
Jacob Warker, Co. D.
Joseph Weiss, Co. D.
Norman Wheelock, Co. D.
Horatio N. Wilkinson, Co. D.
Geo. M. Winslow, Co. D.
Thomas Wray, Co. D.
Cyrus Yeomans, Co. D.
Charles Cox, Co. E.
Henry O. Dutton, Co. E.
Francis P. Knowlton, Co. E.
James Langstaff, Co. E.
Edwin C. Lyman, Co. E.
Michael Moore, Co. E.
John B. Robinson, Co. E.
Ed. H. Snow, Co. E.
Emery Z. Thwing, Co. E.
Hiram J. Welch, Co. E.
Henry Heiden, Co. H.
John Organ, Co. I.
Jos. Shabino, Co. I.
James J. Caward, Co. K.
Thomas Conroy, Co. K.
Silas Cornell, Co. K.
Silas Fero, Co. K.
John H. Lasher, Co. K.
Louis W. Sentenn, Co. K.
John Bell, not on roll.
William Clement.
Michael Hogan.
George Smith.
Samuel Zeigler.

Thirty-sixth Regiment Infantry.

Henry Wandell, Co. G.
Henry Carman, Co. H.
Carroll M. Peck, Co. H.
George L. Cross, Co. I.
Edgar Lyon, Co. I.

Thirty-seventh Regiment Infantry.

George Barron, Co. G.
Joseph E. Clark, Co. G.

Thirty-eighth Regiment Infantry.

James Brennan, Co. F.
Henry C. Ellis, Co. F.
Michael Ryan, Co. F.
John White, Co. F.
Michael Ryan, Co. G.
John White, Co. G.

Fortieth Regiment Infantry (100 days).

Charles Birge, Co. D.
Pitt Cravath, Co. D.
Edward Andrews, Co. I.
Charles L. Black, Co. I.
William Brennen, Co. I.
James Gleason, Co. I.
Thomas Jefford, Jr., Co. I.
Peter B. Lasher, Co. I.
Henry Reap, Co. I.

Forty-second Regiment Infantry.

Edmund Rand, Co. G.
James Thomas, Co. K.

Forty-third Regiment Infantry.

Joseph Birkenmeyer, Co. A.
Horace P. Brownell, Co. A.
Charles J. Goodale, Co. A.
Nathan H. Hatch, Co. A.
Jermiah Holcombe, Co. A.
John Rasmuson, Co. A.
Leroy Stanton, Co. A.
Charles E. Thomas, Co. A.
John H. Freeman, Co. C.

Forty-fourth Regiment Infantry.

Simon Hanf, Co. G.
Joseph Lederer, Co. G.

Forty-sixth Regiment Infantry.

Johannes Hanson, Co. E.

Forty-seventh Regiment Infantry.

Albert Butz, Co. E.
James Gleason, Co. E.
Edgar C. Hamilton, Co. E.
William O'Brien, Co. E.
Matthew Conlin, Co. H.
James Hayden, Co. H.
Abram Meracle, Co. H.
Thomas O'Brien, Co. H.

Forty-eighth Regiment Infantry.

Godfrey Loefert, Co. F.
Fritz Miller, Co. F.
Harvey Santas, Co. F.
Christian Smith, Co. F.
William Fess, Co. F.

Forty-ninth Regiment Infantry.

Oliver Gunderson, Co. C.
Ludwig Buening, Co. H.

Fifty-first Regiment Infantry.

John Coleman, Co. E.

Fifty-second Regiment Infantry.

Charles C. Graham, Q. M.

First Regiment U. S. V. V. Engineers.

Frederick M. Brown.
Adam Fener.
Michael Mitchell.

Twenty-ninth U. S. Col. Troops.

Unassigned recruits—
John Gilum.
Aaron Moore.

Recruits Regular Army, Wisconsin.

Stephen Brockway.
John Mellon.
William Moore.
Ranson Munn.
Joseph Roberts.
Michael Ryan.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

Below is given a supplementary list which may very properly be added, containing the names of volunteers who went to the front from near-by towns, and who since the war have been residents of Whitewater for longer or shorter periods, and more or less identified with its soldier element:

Andrew Arwood, Co. E, 28th, La Grange.
James Bridge, Co. H., 13th Koshkonong.
Robert Bridge, Co. H., 13th Koshkonong.
Samuel Barfoot, Co. G., 4th Wis., Palmyra.

Geo. H. Beckwith, Co. H., 13th Wis., Elkhorn.
Henry Billings, Co. B., 40 Wis., Beloit College.
Augustus Coonrod, Co. L., 1st H. Artillery, LaGrange.
Daniel S. Ewing, Co. A., H. Artillery, Palmyra.
Ambrose Elphick, Co. I., 13th, Lima.
John Garbutt, Co. I., 13th, Palmyra.
Dr. Jos. Green, Asst. Surg. 11th Regt.
Harlan P. Goodman, Co. A., Heavy Artillery, Palmyra.
James M. Hallowes, Co. E., Heavy Artillery, Cold Spring.
Sidney A. Hart, Co. E., Heavy Artillery.
William J. Holden, Co. 40th Wis., LaGrange.
Capt. W. A. Knilans, Co. G., 13th Wis., Sugar Creek.
Geo. Knilans, Co. D., 22d Wis., Richmond.
Albert Marskie, Co. H., 13th Wis., Lima.
Albert Salisbury, Co. H., 13th Wis., Lima.
Gilbert Scott, Co. H., 13th Wis., Center.
Capt. C. W. Steele, Co. A., 4th Cavalry, Lima.
Capt. G. W. Steele, Co. K., 13th Inf., Lima.
James H. Lawton, Co. G., 42d, LaGrange.
J. Byron Taylor, Co. E., 28th, Sugar Creek.

THE COMING OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

[A Paper read by D. S. COOK at the Quarter-Centennial of the Normal School in June, 1893.]

I was greatly gratified when President Salisbury asked me to prepare a paper to read before you on this important day in the history of the Whitewater Normal School. I was gratified that he should think me competent to do the work assigned me, though my confidence in his good judgment was somewhat shaken. Much that I shall present to you is traditionary, but, while open to criticism, is mainly correct, as correct as man's unreliable memory usually permits. Certainly much of it is not a matter of record, and some of its statements may be disputed. The right to be disputed is an inalienable one.

I have carefully examined the proceedings of the Board of Regents, from the day of its organization up

to the year 1870, and the record is remarkable for that which is not recorded.

Sept. 26, 1860, it is entered on the minutes that Major Rufus Cheney, H. L. Rann, and others, appeared before the Board, urging the claims of Whitewater for a Normal School, and offering lands and buildings, and asking the Board to say on what terms their request could be granted. No action was taken by the Board. On May 26, 1865, the Board of Regents instructed the officers to advertise for sealed proposals for donations in money, lands, buildings, etc., the time for receiving proposals to extend to Sept. 1, 1865. On Sept. 7, 1865, Hon. C. C. Sholes, Hon. Wm. E. Smith, and Hon. J. G. McMynn were selected to visit the localities making proposals. The Board met in Milwaukee, May 2, 1866. Hon. S. A. White reported that the title to the present site was nearly completed, and gave evidence that the necessary bonds had been deposited with the State Treasurer, thus complying with the law. Sept. 6, 1866, the Board instructed the building committee to proceed with the work of building the Normal School at Whitewater, according to plans and specifications prepared by Architect Randall, of Chicago, and to employ a suitable superintendent. Nov. 21, 1866, the sum of $3,000 was appropriated to be expended under the direction of Supt. N. M. Littlejohn, and the president and secretary were authorized to draw warrants for such moneys as might be due for work done on the Whitewater Normal School.

March 23, 1867, the sum of $8,000 was appropriated to finish the Normal School at Whitewater. Sept. 24, 1867, the Board authorized the Governor and Regent, William E. Smith, to employ a principal for the school, and the building committee to put in heating apparatus, for the purpose of protection, and that the work might continue during the cold weather that the building might be finished during the Fall. Dec. 31, 1867, the committee on employment of principal reported that they had selected Prof. Oliver Arey, with a salary of $2,500, and had appropriated the sum of $300 to pay expenses of his moving from Buffalo to Whitewater. Said committee were authorized to select the

faculty. Jan. 28, 1868, Regents Starr and White were appointed committee to select books, apparatus, and things needed for the Whitewater Normal School. Jan. 28, 1869, President Arey presented before the Board the question of laying out the grounds, and the sum of $100 was appropriated for that purpose. Superintendent Littlejohn reported that the sum of $54,390.52 had been expended, and debts remained unpaid, $2,519, and needed for completion, $1,500. July 15, 1869, bills presented by Regent S. A. White show an expenditure of $552.20 in beautifying the grounds, and of that amount the citizens of Whitewater had donated $392.72. As the foregoing was taken from the secretary's books, it must be worth its face; but who can read between the lines ?

Over forty years ago, men were turning over, in their minds, plans for better educational advantages than could be had in the little brick school house located in the park opposite the residence of Mr. Coe. The little red school house was then, and still is, a power, outside of politics. Little did Governor Peck imagine, when he and his mates were planning mischief "in the little red brick," that they were making history. At different times, efforts were made to build up an academy, a seminary, a young ladies' boarding school, but none of them materialized.

During the year 1865, Hon. S. A. White was appointed a member of the Board of Normal Regents; and here let me say to those who are, and those who are not, familiar with the events of those days, that through his determined and persistent efforts, and the generous use of his means, we are more indebted to Judge White for the locating and building of this Normal School than to all other influences combined. Some of you remember how he labored in season and out of season, with hand on his purse, and with tongue eloquent with conviction, coaxing, persuading, and almost driving us, to take the step which he felt would bring to Whitewater and its people greater good than any other ever presented for our acceptance. Today is his prophecy fulfilled.

Hon. W. H. Chandler, then State Senator, spent Sunday, the 19th day of February, 1865, with Judge White; and the question of Normal School building was fully discussed. Mr. Chandler was an enthusiastic friend of the Normal School. In 1870, he was appointed member of the Board of Regents, and for twenty-one years gave his time and talent to the advancement of its interests, earning, deserving, and still holding an honored place in the heart of every citizen of Wisconsin. Other members of the Board may be equally deserving, but none of them has been so long and so familiarly known to our people.

During the month of April, 1865, steps were taken toward establishing an academy in Whitewater, but the project was given up as soon as the question of locating a normal school came before the Legislature. Two plans for its location were presented. One was to establish a normal school, par excellence, at Racine, having every needed equipment, in building and faculty, to make it the school of the State, leaving all thought of other schools in abeyance. The other plan, presented and ardently supported by Judge White, was the establishment of a normal school in each congressional district, beginning with two, and following with others as soon as they were needed, the buildings and equipments to be moderate, but sufficient for the needs of the time. The locations talked of were Milwaukee, Racine, Whitewater, Oshkosh, Stoughton, Sheboygan, and Platteville. As members from each district were present, and felt a personal interest in the location, the plan presented by Judge White was adopted. At the suggestion of Hon. J. G. McMynn, a committee was appointed to visit and report upon the desirability of any location that might be presented, taking into consideration everything tending toward the welfare and success of the school. That committee in their report rated Racine higher than either Whitewater or Platteville. The Board of Regents gave notice that they would receive proposals for money, lands, buildings, etc., till the following September. In the month of August, the citizens of Whitewater voted to raise by town tax the sum of $20,000 and donate it with a site,

as an inducement to locate a normal school in Whitewater. The Milwaukee people were dilatory. After the time for receiving proposals had expired, they asked to have the bids reopened, and pledged the faith of their city to pay annually the sum of $4,000 for five years, and that wealthy citizens of Milwaukee would donate a site. Platteville agreed to donate grounds, buildings, library, etc., estimated to be worth $25,000. The committee, consisting of Hon. J. G. McMynn, Hon. C. C. Sholes, and Gov. W. E. Smith, made their report the following March. The Board then decided to locate a school in Whitewater, provided we would donate the sum of $25,000 and a suitable site.

A citizens' mass meeting was called at Metropolitan Hall. William DeWolf called the meeting to order, John S. Partridge was chosen chairman, and T. D. Weeks secretary. Remarks were made in favor of accepting and complying with the proposition by Major R. Cheney, Hon. N. M. Littlejohn, and Hon. S. A. White. Resolutions were finally passed thanking the committee, Messrs. Littlejohn, Rann and White, who had the matter in charge, for their efforts in securing the location of a normal school in Whitewater, and pledging the town to carry out the propositions presented by the Board of Regents. The plans of the proposed building, drawn by Architect Randall, of Chicago, were on exhibition. The tax was voted and levied in July, 1866. It was bitterly opposed by many outside the village, who said it was a scheme to build up the village at the expense of the town. Time has shown that the town has been as largely benefited as the village. A few of the village people opposed the movement, but a large majority of village and country were enthusiastic for it; and today no one regrets the sacrifices made.

The season was rapidly passing, and many feared the work of building would be delayed another year. August 8th, the Board gave notice to the contractors that they would receive bids for building, time to expire Sept. 4th. The architect's estimate was $33,000. When the bids were opened none were found within the limit of the estimated sum. The building committee

were instructed to go ahead with the work, without contract, and to meet the following week at Whitewater. At that meeting, the Hon. N. M. Littlejohn was selected to superintend the construction of the building, and work was begun on the foundation Oct. 2d. As we gathered around and watched the huge boulders lie down in their beds of cement, to sleep the dreamless sleep of ages, our hopes grew bright and our faith grew strong. Our brightest hopes, our fondest anticipations have been more than realized.

"And yet! and yet!! The twenty-five years that have passed away
Are but the rosy dawn of the coming day."

The building, as it now stands, after twenty-five years of service, is gratifying evidence of the ability and faithfulness of the superintendent. Before the work could be commenced, it was necessary that the money donated by our people, $25,000, should be paid into the State treasury; and though the tax was levied, and sure to be paid, it could not be collected in time to meet the demand. To obviate this difficulty, Judge White and others deposited with the State treasurer, as security, their private government bonds. The bonds were redeemed by Mr. Littlejohn, then chairman of the Board of Supervisors, as per vouchers in the State treasury. The town officers decided to issue town bonds to the amount of the tax, 250 bonds of $100 each. These were readily sold at par, Lyman Goodhue taking 110 shares, S. A. White fifty shares, Zerah Mead forty shares, Lewis Cook thirty-five shares, Wm. H. Wright five shares, Mrs. W. H. Wright ten shares. A private subscription was circulated to raise funds to pay for a site, the locating committee having decided to accept the one now occupied. Several others were talked of; one where the water-tower stands, one just north of the paper-mill, and one known as Geo. Dann's hill. The subscriptions were large, and were made readily. Several were $500 each. Of those who gave freely and liberally, a large proportion have paid their last debt, notably, Samuel Prince, Lewis Vincent, S. A. White, Lyman Goodhue, N. H. Allen, L. A. Winchester, J. S. Partridge, Zerah Mead, Wm. H. Wright, E. S. Reding-

ton, R. O'Connor, Mrs. R. A. Trippe, Geo. Esterly, Major Rufus Cheney, and many others. I am greatly disappointed in not being able to place my hand on that subscription list. My impression is that the site cost between $5,000 and $6,000. Deacon Bush owned and occupied a portion of the front of the lot. Mr. Prueger lived in and owned a small house just east of the Normal School building, and the balance of the land, in all about ten to thirteen acres, was deeded by Geo. G. Williams.

Cold weather put a stop to the work, and it was not resumed till July, 1867, at which time it was pushed vigorously. In the interval, the voice of the croaker was heard in the land, saying, "the building will not be finished; we have thrown away our money."

The Racine people were up in arms because their claims to a Normal School were ignored, and threatened to appeal to the courts for redress, saying they had raised more money than Whitewater, and charging that undue influences had been brought to bear on the locating committee, the Racine Advocate being the mouthpiece of the disaffected parties.

In December, '67, the Board secured the services of Prof. Oliver Arey as principal. He and his family arrived in Whitewater in January, '68. April 10th, the Legislature authorized the sum of $8,000 to be used in completing the school. The formal opening took place April 21, 1868. Dedicatory services were opened by the Hon. Wm. Starr, president of the Board, followed by music by the glee class, the membership of the class being Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Montague, H. H. Greenman, Mrs. E. Dewey, Miss Hattie Birge, and H. H. McGraw. Prayer by Rev. J. McNamara. Solo: "It will be Summer Time Bye and Bye." President Starr made a brief address. President Arey followed, showing the importance of an education, the value of the Normal school, and its history. A dedicatory song, written by Mrs. Arey, with music written by Dr. Greenman, was sung by the glee class.

Among those present, were President Allen, of Platteville, President Chadbourne, of the State Univer-

sity, by whom impressive remarks were made, followed by short talks by Mr. Pomeroy, city superintendent of Milwaukee, J. L. Pickard, city superintendent of Chicago, Rev. T. G. Colton, Rev. Mr. McNamara, Hon. H. Robbins, of Platteville, Hon. J. E. Thomas, and Hon. A. J. Craig, superintendent of public instruction, the exercises closing with the singing of Old Hundred by the entire audience.

Then began an epoch in the history of Whitewater of growth and usefulness such that coming years only can tell the full value thereof. Great credit is due the men who thus brought to a successful completion a work more productive of lasting good than language can portray. We hear of fruit that is hand-picked, without a blemish. There are people who are hand-picked, without flaws, up to the stature of perfect manhood. Not perfect when measured by the Great Standard, but perfect of their kind, and we claim for Wisconsin and for Whitewater our full share. We are proud of Wisconsin! Proud of Whitewater! Proud of our Normal School! whose work from its opening day, has been one of unbroken and ever-increasing usefulness.

THE OLD BUILDINGS OF WHITEWATER.

BY ALBERT SALISBURY.

In the year 1844, according to Prosper Cravath's history, the hamlet of Whitewater contained twenty-nine dwelling houses and twenty-two business buildings, including mills, shops, stores, and offices. In these, were domiciled fifty-four families and forty-eight men without families. What has become of those pioneer buildings which housed the Whitewater of '44?

My inquiry in the Register of April 6, 1906, brought one man to the front, and little more. But that man seems to serve the purpose pretty well. Chas. M. Clark came to Whitewater with his father, John M. Clark, in 1846. He was then a boy of only 13 years, but evidently with a keen eye for locality. He declares that he can now distinctly remember every building then standing in the village—how it looked, where it stood, and who lived in it. In this article, I have combined

his recollections with the record of Prosper Cravath as far as possible.

Of course, the number of dwellings in '46 was greater than in '44; but the majority of them have disappeared from the scene altogether and many others have been moved from their original sites. Of those still discoverable, some account is here given, as the result of a tour of the town made under the pilotage of Mr. Clark.

Beginning at the mill, which was the original center of the town, we find the first grist mill, built by Dr. Trippe in 1839, still standing as the framed annex to the Stone Mill. Across the street, towards the railroad, is a little wooden dwelling long known as "the mill house." Of this house, Mrs. Trippe was the occupant in '46. Their original dwelling, part log and part framed, in which Dr. Trippe died in 1844, stood between the railroad and the pond, just south of where the old wagon factory now stands. This was still standing until 1893, when O'Donnell started up the wagon business. In the course of his cleaning up process, the old house was demolished. None of the log houses of the village now remain.

In the block extending westward from the mill on the south side of Main street, on the site now occupied by Finch's store, once stood a wooden building occupied by Eaton & Brass as a store, from 1843 to 1846, when they sold it to Marsh & Partridge. This building is now doing duty as a dwelling, or rather as two dwellings, on North street. The front half is now the house two doors east from George street, on the north side of North street. The other half is part of the dwelling one door farther east, now occupied by Dr. Horne.

At the corner of North and Second streets, to the rear of Hotel Walworth, is a one-story house, now owned by Mrs. M. A. Klein, which stands where it was occupied by Job Bonnell, a tailor, in 1846. The house standing on Second street, next to the Walworth Hotel, was built by Dr. J. A. Clarke on the present hotel site, in 1841. It was then, and long afterwards, one of the finest houses in town. Mrs. Clarke has been a continuous resident of Whitewater from that day to this.

The house with a balcony, north of Ward's livery barn, on the east side of Second street, once stood on the corner on Main street now occupied by the Bower House block. It was built by David J. Powers and was occupied by Levi Powers as a drug store and dwelling combined. Later, it was occupied for many years by John T. Smith as a jewelry store, up to the time when Joe Bowers moved it away.

The house on North street near Fremont street, now owned by Miss Ella Williams and long the residence of her father, George G. Williams, Esq., was built by Dr. Oliver C. Magoon in 1842. He sold it to George Dann in 1845, who lived in it for a time.

Returning to Main street, the upright part of the dwelling at the corner of Second street, known as the Aleck Simmons house, was built by Jesse Pease in 1842. He was the oldest man in the village at that time.

Passing up the street, the west part of Dr. Chaffee's house, occupied by her office, was built by I. U. Wheeler the first, "Old 'Squire Wheeler," in 1841.

Across Third street, on the corner, the Sweetland house was built by Matthew Hicks in 1841, and was sold by him to John O. Storms in 1843.

A part of the one-story brick building a little farther up was built by Joseph Powers and was first occupied by James Worm as a gun shop in 1846. Here he kept "bachelor's hall" until he was married, when the remaining, or western part was erected.

The dwelling at the corner of Fourth street, now owned by Scott Salisbury, was built by David J. Powers in 1841, but was owned and occupied by Freeman Pratt in 1846. This house is one of the few which retain practically their original form and dimensions.

The house across the street, at the rear of the White library, and now owned by Clarence Partridge, was built by Judge Jarvis K. Pike in 1842. Religious services were often held in the upper story of this dwelling in the early years.

On the north side of Main street somewhat back from the street, on the lot now owned by A. P. Aldrich and known as the G. W. Esterly place, once stood the old homestead of the Pratt family, built by Asaph Pratt

and occupied by him and sundry of his sons. This building extensively remodeled now stands at 117 North Prairie street, and is occupied by Rev. E. C. Barnard.

Farther up on Main street, out in the country, so to speak, were a few houses. Of these, the house now occupied by Mrs. R. C. Shepard, at 803 Main street, was built by Calvin Pike in the spring of 1843. This house retains practically its original form.

On the hill just opposite the Normal School, was the house of Leander Birge, the western outpost of the village. A part of that house still remains in the present structure, it having been enlarged in all directions.

Crossing to Center street and returning towards the mill, we come at No. 405 upon one of the early houses, now owned by Phil Trautmann, the middle part of which was built by Rev. M. P. Kinney in 1844. Next below, is the house, which was built by John McCollins in the early forties, and is still occupied by members of his family.

The house at 311 Center, corner of Fourth street, was occupied in '46 by Joel Clapp, who for many years conducted a livery business here. Just below, at 309 Center street, is a house occupied in '46 by Joseph Rogers, a blacksmith, who formed a partnership with L. A. Winchester in 1844. Perhaps none of these early houses shows its age, externally, so little as this one.

The small brick building at the corner of Center and Third streets, long known as the Dobell house, was built by Elder A. B. Winchell, first pastor of the Baptist church, in 1843. It was, doubtless, the first brick building erected in Whitewater.

The house next to the Richardson block, recently known as the Dr. Bagley place, was built by D. Smith and rented in 1845 by Sheldon C. Hall, for many years a leading merchant and promenent citizen of the place.

On the west side of Fourth street, next to the site of the old "lock-up," and one door off from Whitewater street, is a dwelling, the main part of which was once the first meeting house of the Congregational Society. It then stood where the Congregational church now stands, the present church being the fourth which has occupied that site.

On Whitewater street, one building remains, No. 414, the east wing of which was built by Seth M. Billings in 1842 and occupied by him for some years.

On the east side of the creek, there were but few buildings in '46. The most notable of those now remaining is the George Dann house on Cravath street. The west part of this house was built by Thomas Van Horn in 1840, and sold to George Dann in 1847, who enlarged it. The little gravel house still standing on Jefferson street, north of the brewery, was built by Deacon William Potts, a pillar in the Baptist church.

The road from the grist mill to the sawmill (paper mill) once ran much nearer to the pond, on high ground. Two houses built on that road may now be seen standing well back from the present line of Wisconsin street. One of these was built by John Woodbury in 1844; the other one, farther south and next to the Rob Purcell place, belonged to Nick Taft in '46.

Still farther south, the last house on the west side of the street, is a house of which the front part was owned by Aaron (Orra) Ostrander. It was, says Mr. Clark, an old house in '46.

Mention may be made in closing, of one building which does not date back into the "forties." The brick building on Main street, opposite the head of Franklin street, now owned by Mrs. Wm. Trippe, was built in 1851 by Rev. Martin P. Kinney, then pastor of the Congregational church for educational uses. The front part of it was occupied for a time by the "Whitewater Academy," of which Rev. M. Montague, also a Congregationalist, was the principal. In 1853, on the departure of Mr. Kinney, the property was purchased by Mrs. R. A. Trippe, who resided there during the remaining years of her life.

THE INDUSTRIES THAT MADE WHITEWATER.

BY ALBERT SALISBURY.

It has seemed desirable to put in order for preservation some brief account of the early industries of Whitewater, those that gave it its prosperity and made it what it is.

Whitewater, to-day, is suffering from a dearth of manufacturing enterprises. Whether this is due to a lack of ambition and energy on the part of her present citizens or to changed conditions in the industrial world, it might be hard to say. But conditions were not always thus. The early settlers were an active, energetic class, and they looked out sharply for openings for industrial enterprise. It may be worth while, before it is altogether too late, to gather up the main facts with regard to these early ventures. The reminiscences of Mr. Cravath, supplemented by the recollections of other longtime residents of Whitewater, furnish the data for this modest undertaking.

Milling.—The first manufacturing industry developed here was, naturally, that of milling. The first manufacturing plant in Whitewater, as is generally known, was the grist-mill, built by Dr. James Trippe in 1839; though Herrington's saw-mill three miles southeast of town, on the Lima branch of Whitewater creek, was in operation a year or two earlier. A saw-mill was built by Dr. Trippe on the site since occupied by the defunct paper-mill, which began operations in the fall of 1841.

The wooden grist-mill built by Dr. Trippe was sold to William Birge in 1853. The stone building, now the mill proper, was built by him in 1856. The mason work was done, in chief part at least, by James Freeman, an Englishman, residing in Lima. After the death of Mr. Birge, the mill was sold to John Lean and Byron Brown in 1866. Since then, it has met with numerous changes of fortune and ownership.

What has been known in recent years as "the Red Mill' was built by Asaph Pratt in 1843, and was long known as Pratt's Mill. Pliny Muzzey was its first miller. It was purchased by Ansel Salisbury in 1857, and was thereafter known as the Branch Mill. In later years, Posey & Chesebro put in modern roller machinery, and for some years it did a large business in milling Dakota wheat. The old grade of the spur track put in by the railroad still speaks of an activity which has become only a tradition of the past.

First Blacksmith Shop.—The first blacksmith shop was opened in 1839, a log building fourteen feet square.

A second shop was built by William and Egbert Wheeler in 1840, on Main Street directly opposite where the First National Bank now stands. In 1841, the Wheelers were making steel plows, which they sold at $12 each. L. A. Winchester opened a blacksmith shop in 1844.

Brick-Making.—The manufacture of brick was one of the earliest, as it is one of the latest, of Whitewater's industries, since clay of the best quality is found hereabouts in abundance. The first brickyard was started by William Wood, May 1, 1841, on the south side of the railroad, near the pond. The brick produced was red. He burned 40,000 in the first kiln.

In 1847, George Dann had a brickyard in operation near Cravath street, east of Jefferson. The kiln was located where the residence of A. E. Scholl now stands. The clay-pit was to the rear, in front of the brewery site. This yard was still in operation as late as 18—, or thereabouts.

A third brickyard was opened on the west side of Fremont street, by Albert Kendall about 1852. Another, close by this, was established by A. Y. Chamberlin in 1866 for the manufacture of brick and drain tile. This was operated until 1875, though the farmers of that day could not be enlisted in the general use of drain tile for wet lands. Kendall's yard also continued in operation till some time in "the seventies." A great quantity of brick must have been produced at these yards, for the work of filling up the great clay-pit has been gradually going on for the last thirty years.

About 1879, a fourth yard was started by Joseph Dann and Edward Roethe, behind the hill north of Cravath street. After one year, Roethe dropped out, and the business was continued by Dann until 1891, when he sold the yard to Charles Martin, who finally closed the yard in 1893, after the closing of the Esterly works.

The fifth and last venture was inaugurated in 1903 by the Whitewater Brick and Tile company on their present site near the creek, east of the water works pumping station.

Cooper Shops.—When the writer of this was a boy on the farm, some miles out on the Janesville road, a frequent but always interesting sight was the passage

GEORGE DANN

along the highway of "barrel wagons" and "pottery wagons". The "pottery wagon" had a large, high-built box, and was the best substitute for a "circus wagon" containing wild beasts. But the "barrel wagon" was a still bigger sight. Its rack was perhaps twenty-four feet in length, flaring upward to a width of perhaps ten feet. Empty barrels stacked in tiers to a height of perhaps twelve feet made an imposing cargo to be drawn by one span of horses.

George Dann started the first cooper shop in 1845 on Fourth street, back of the Baptist church. From this site, the business was transferred, after a year or two, to the east side of the creek near the residence since known as the George Dann place. Later, the business occupied two buildings on the site now held by the cold storage plant of the Union Produce company. Both are still standing, one having been moved back from its former position.

About 1855, John Scholl, who had previously worked for Dann, set up a shop of his own on the north side of Cravath street, near Jefferson. Later, his shop occupied the present site and building of Criger's marble works. His business consisted chiefly in the manufacture of pork barrels and whiskey barrels; whereas, Dann produced flour barrels principally. The pork barrels were sold, partly, to S. C. Hall's packing house, or shipped away; the whiskey barrels were supplied to Tuttle's distillery. For some years, between 1860 and 1870, S. C. Hall & Co., maintained a cooper shop in connection with their packing house. It was located between the railroad and the pond.

The timber for the barrel manufacture was obtained, in the early years, from Bark Woods; later, it was shipped in from northern points, chiefly Oshkosh. The hickory hoop-poles were got, largely, from Bark Woods; though, at one time, some were cut in the vicinity of the Lauderdale lakes. The last barrels made in Whitewater were set up in 1886, or thereabouts, by Charles Scholl. But for over thirty years, the barrel manufacture was one of the productive industries of the place.

Potteries.—The pottery business was inaugurated by Warren Cole in 1845, or soon after. The first pottery

was located on the northwest corner of North and Fremont streets, on a lot now vacant. Geo. G. Williams, Esq., took a half interest in 1847. In 1855, the establishment was located just south of the freight depot, with J. C. Williams & Co. as proprietors. In 1859, it was doing an active business under the firm of Cole & Hunter. This plant was finally burned out, November 30, 1867.

In the neighborhood of 1859, a pottery was started in the hollow on Summit street, by M. Ohnhaus and John Milz, which operated for six or seven years.

Sometime after the burning of the pottery south of the depot, it was rebuilt by Dan. Cole, who ran it for two or three years. It was then run by M. Ohnhaus with various partners for a few years more. Eventually T. S. Abbott bought the building from Dan. Cole and used it in the manufacture of cheese-boxes for a time. In the later years of the pottery business here, flower pots were a prominent item in the manufacture; but in the earlier years, under the Coles, the larger forms of pottery were supplied to a great part of Southern Wisconsin from this point.

Wagons, Etc.—Another industry inaugurated at an early date was the building of wagons. This was in the days when wagons were made by hand, in a "wagon shop" instead of in a large factory. A wagon shop was started by O. A. Weed in 1843, on the lot next east of the Walworth Hotel site. J. L. Pratt worked with him in 1845, but set up a larger shop of his own in 1848 on the northeast corner of Center and Second streets. Pratt continued the manufacture of wagons on a considerable scale until 1866, when he sold his plant to H. D. Converse, who continued the wagon and carriage business for several years.

The larger enterprise developed by L. A. Winchester and his several partners, and which made Whitewater famous for its wagons, grew out of other branches of manufacture which may be briefly mentioned. L. A. Winchester and Dan. Trippe opened a foundry in 1850. In 1853, the manufacture of plows was being developed in connection with the foundry, and William DeWolf came into the business. In 1855, a new building was

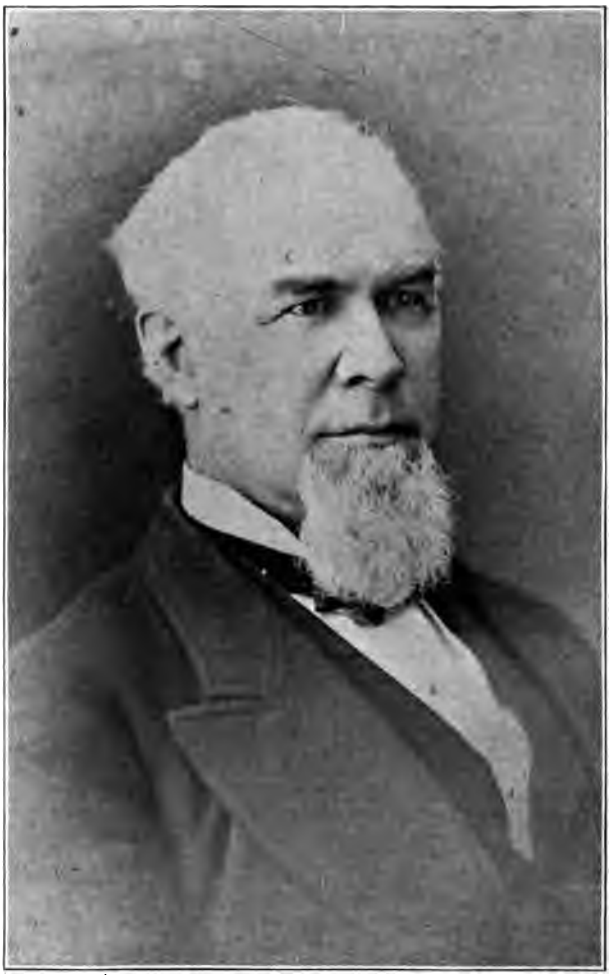
erected. In 1857, John S. Partridge entered the firm. The manufacture of plows and scrapers was the leading line for some years. Just when the manufacture of wagons was taken up is not easy to discover; but in 1865 a large addition was made to the plant, doubtless for that purpose. In 1866, they were making wagons by the carload, and employed about 100 men. In the "seventies" they were making as high as 5000 wagons a year.

In 1867, DeWolf left the firm, which now became Winchester, Partridge & Co. The manufacture of plows was continued as late as 1873. The production of wagons was continued until 1888, when conditions had become such that it could not be continued with profit. But for many years the "Whitewater Wagon" was a staple commodity. They were made in various styles and sent to remote parts of the world. The death of both of the leading partners brought the business to a close in 1892. But many a man in Whitewater got his start in life, or even made a modest competence, in the employ of Winchester & Co.

In 1857, a stove factory was put in operation by Powers, Allen & Co. In 1859, the firm became P. H. Brady & Co., who continued the business for several years, selling out in 1865 to Winchester & DeWolf. It does not appear that they continued the manufacture of stoves. A feed-mill for grinding corn and cob together was one of their ventures.

Paper Mill.—The paper mill, on the site of Trippe's saw-mill, was built by Trippe and Crombie in 1859. In 1866, it was sold to Denison & Tanner for $37,500, who operated it profitably for many years. In 1884, Mr. Denison withdrew, selling his interest back to John Crombie. In 1888, or thereabouts, Tanner sold his share in the business to Charley Allen, and not long after Crombie sold to Ben Frees. Allen and Frees, as the Whitewater Paper Co., greatly enlarged and improved the plant, more than doubling its capacity, but sold to the Columbia Straw-Board Co., or trust, in 1894.

But, by this time, the growing scarcity of straw in this region and a decreased demand for straw paper,



L. A. WINCHESTER

along with other reasons, brought about the closing of the mill and a cessation of the industry.

Pork-packing.—How many people now resident here know that Whitewater was once a center of the meat packing industry? Probably not one in a hundred. Yet from 1855 on to the neighborhood of 1870, S. C. Hall with various partners, and under changing firm names, carried on an extensive pork-packing business. The packing-house was the brick building on Whitewater street, near the depot, now occupied by the blacksmith and repair shop of John Malone. They kept a buyer, also, at McGregor, Iowa, buying dressed hogs to be sent here for packing and rendering.

For several years, they maintained a cooper shop in connection with this packing business, which was located somewhere south of the railroad tracks. This was in active operation as late as the year 1867.

The Distillery.—One who travels to "the Red Mill," after turning from Janesville street into the Richmond road, may notice, in the pasture to the east of the road, an old building now seemingly abandoned to decay. This was once the Whitewater Distillery, which may be accounted as one of the early industrial enterprises of the town. It was built about 1849, by Freeman and DeLorma Pratt, who carried it on for several years. They had a four-horse team employed in the distribution of their product to the surrounding region. An important part of the business was the fattening of cattle, feeding them, in long sheds, on the waste product, or swill.

In October, 1856, the Pratts sold out to Tuttle & Shultz. In 1858, Shultz sold his interest to A. W. Curtiss, who remained a partner until the close of the enterprise. In April, 1859, the plant burned down, and was not rebuilt until 1862. The imposition of the war tax caused a very active production in the months before the law went into effect; but after that the business ceased to be profitable, and was discontinued July 1, 1864. A few years later, the building was sold to Fred Coburn, who fitted it up as a cheese factory.

The Esterly Harvester Works.—One of the major enterprises which built up Whitewater and gave it a name as a manufacturing center was the Esterly Har-

vester Works. George Esterly was one of the earliest settlers on Heart Prairie, but his mechanical genius would not allow him to remain a farmer, even on the fat lands of Heart Prairie. An authentic account of his early experiments in the direction of harvesting machinery would be interesting if it were now obtainable; but current report has it that his first invention in that line was a "header", thus anticipating by many years the idea which has since proved practicable in the Far West.

The manufacturing plant which he finally built up in Whitewater began with a modest frame building in 1856, with which was conneected a machine shop near the paper mill. Two brick shops were added on the site near the railroad in 1857. In 1858, the establishment was employing seventy men.

In the course of the years, his reaping machine evolved from the primitive "hand-raker" through the "dropper" and "self-raker" to the elaborate "twine-binder," and was recognized as one of the most efficient machines on the market.

In the "sixties" and "seventies", a large business was done in the manufacture of reapers and seeders. The making of "harvesters", or "self-binders", was begun in a small way in 1879 and 1880; but after 1880 nothing else was made except mowers. During most of these years, from 200 to 300 hands were employed. The heaviest business was in '83 and '84; though the largest monthly pay-roll occurred in '89 or '90, when 525 pay-checks were given out at one time. The greatest output of harvesters in one year was perhaps in 1889, the number being about 5000 machines. In 1893, however, the whole business was transferred to Minneapolis, under a new organization, to run a short and disappointing career, and the plant at Whitewater was closed.

The Coffin Factory, Etc.—In 1875, A Y. Chamberlin & Co. built a large building on Milwaukee Street to the west of the Esterly Works, and began the manufacture of furniture. After a short time, the manufacture of coffins became the main feature. This continued with only partial success till 1880, when the Esterlys took it over, and changed the product from coffins to furniture.

GEORGE ESTERLY

But in 1881 the furniture experiment was discontinued, and the building became the wood-shop of the Harvester Works.

Other enterprises might well receive mention did space permit. Thus Wright & Cash began, in 1858, the manufacture of an excellent style of corn cultivators, with which they supplied a considerable territory for some years. H. A. Conger's Nursery was also an enterprise of considerable magnitude, which furnished employment to a goodly number of men and boys from about 1860 on to 1880.

The manufacture and shipment of dairy products, now so prominent a part of Whitewater business, belongs to a later period of its history than that under present consideration. The first cheese factory in the vicinity was opened in 1866 by Messrs. Pike, Case and Horton.

PART IV.

Brief Biographical Sketches of Early Pioneers of Whitewater.

The following condensed sketches of some of the more notable early settlers of Whitewater have been compiled in part from those given in the History of Walworth County, and partly from a large number of obituary notices preserved by the late Mrs. Philena Salisbury. The list has been necessarily confined to those who came to Whitewater not later than 1850; and the limitations of space have also compelled a close condensation in most cases.

It is a matter of regret, however, that some who deserve to be commemorated in this manner have necessarily been omitted, for the reason that no materials are now available for the construction of such memorial sketches without greater labor than the editor was able to bestow. Among those who have thus passed beyond present reach, I may name, especially, Deacon Justus Carpenter, Willard B. Johnson, Deacon Albert Kendall, Sidney Workman, Warren Cole, Sr., and others, who helped to make the wholesome, budding Whitewater, of sixty years ago.

These sketches are arranged, as will be seen, in alphabetical order, for greater convenience in reference. In the list are included a number of the pioneer boys, those who were born here in the earliest years or who came to Whitewater as children, at the first.

Harvey Arveson.—Began pioneer life early. Born in Norway, May 28, 1841, he came with his parents to Whitewater in 1844. They settled on a farm five miles southeast of the village. In 1879, he took up the boot and shoe business in town, which he carried on successfully until 1895. He was married July 4, 1871, to Carrie Mason, who was born in Norway and emigrated to America in 1845. She died in 1905.

SETH M. BILLINGS

Seth M. Billings.—Was born in Rutland, Vt., in 1814. Married, Feb. 16, 1835, to Miss Lena Markle. Came to Whitewater in 1839, living here continuously until his death in 1880. He was Sheriff of Walworth County in 1861-'62, and frequently held other positions of trust. In all matters of public interest, he was active and liberal. In private and social life, he was courteous, kind, and generous, and a faithful member of the Congregational church.

William Birge.—William Birge was a direct lineal descendant of Richard Birge, who as a boy was a member of the first colony which landed at Dorchester, Mass., in 1630, and, later, founded Windsor, Conn. He was the oldest of a family of thirteen children and was born in Hartford, Conn., Nov. 18, 1813. Shortly after his birth, the family went to Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and thence to Ithaca, New York, where he worked in a small woolen mill which his father operated.

In the winter of 1833-34, having previously "bought his time" from his father, Mr. Birge engaged with Rev. Mr. Harrison to drive two yoke of oxen to Jackson, Michigan. They went through the woods of Canada, crossing Lake St. Clair on the ice, which proved a very hazardous undertaking. Mr. Birge at once entered eighty acres of land near Jackson. His brother Henry having arrived at Waterford, Mich., in 1836, William walked to that point from Jackson, and finally induced his brother to accompany him to Wisconsin. Returning by the way of Jackson, William sold his claim, and the two brothers started out on foot, blazing their way through the forests and reaching the mouth of the St. Joe River. There they hired a man having a sail boat, who for the sum of $5.00 carried them to Chicago, where they connected with a larger boat for Milwaukee. At Milwaukee, they met their brother, Leander Birge, who had preceded them a few days. They were joined by Chas. Hamilton and Dr. Ed. Brewer. This party with seven yoke of oxen started westward. After several days' travel, it camped on the present site of Whitewater. Proceeding farther, they built a shanty at the forks of Whitewater and Bark Rivers, plowed a

strip of land, where they did some planting, chiefly of white turnips. This was in the early spring of 1837. The Birges soon built a log cabin where Whiton and Walworth streets now join, and named the place Whitewater, because of the very white sand on the bottom of the stream, where the ford was usually made. Henry Birge remained nearly a year, and then returned to Waterford, Michigan, where at this writing, June, 1906, he is still living in mental and physical vigor.

On Jan. 9, 1839, William Birge was married to Mary Alvina Nobles in Milwaukee. The Nobles family had settled in that village in 1835, coming originally from Connecticut. For a time, Mr. Nobles, as a merchant, had only Solomon Juneau as a competitor.

On May 22, 1860, while the Republican Convention, which gave to Abraham Lincoln his first nomination as President, was in session in Chicago, he died at his residence at the age of forty-seven. William Birge was a man endowed with extraordinary physical strength, energy, and endurance. He was strictly temperate in his habits. Although a severe disciplinarian, he was kind and indulgent in his home, liberal in all public and private matters, aggressive in all, and especially in the advancement of educational and business interests of Whitewater.

Mr. Birge was an active, enterprising man, and was engaged, during his residence in Whitewater, in many business enterprises.

He was a Whig in the old days and a Republican after that party was organized. He was a member of the Building Committee which erected the first and second church edifices for the Congregational Society in Whitewater, and was a member of that church at the time of his death.

Julius C. Birge.—"Jule Birge" was born in Whitewater, Nov. 18, 1839, being the first child born in the new settlement. In his earlier years, when not in school he worked on the farm, in the flouring mill, and the store of his father, William Birge. When he was twenty years of age, his father died, leaving property much encumbered, owing to the financial depression following the year 1857. Julius assumed the entire

charge of administering the estate, paying all its obligations, and for five years conducted the flouring mill with success. In 1865, an attack of typhoid fever led him to cross the Western plains for purposes of recuperation, spending nine months in camp, before the day of trans-continental railways. In the spring of 1867, he settled in St. Louis, Mo., and assisted in organizing the Semple & Birge Manufacturing Co. For a time, he was vice-president of the Winchester & Partridge Manufacturing Co. Since the year 1880, he has been continuously president of the Seymour Manufacturing Co., and the St. Louis Shovel Co. He is vice-president and a director of the Ames Shovel & Tool Co., having its general offices in Boston. He has been, for two years, president of the American Hardware Manufacturer's Association, and is a director in various financial institutions. He has been a member of the Pilgrim Congregational Church of St. Louis since 1873 and continuously on active boards of that church and of various social organizations.

He was married in 1873, to Mary Patrick of St. Louis. Five children are now living as a result of that union.

The beautiful fountain in front of the White Memorial Library is a token of Mr. Birge's regard for his native town.

Joseph C. Bower.—Was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1821. Came to America with his parents in 1827, settling first in Dutchess County, New York. Came to Raymond, Racine County, in 1841, and followed farming until 1843. Then went to Milwaukee and learned the mason's trade. In 1846, he came to Whitewater and helped to build the first brewery here. He became a contractor and builder and constructed many of the brick buildings of the place. At one time, he owned twelve brick business buildings, including the Bower House (Hotel Duquesne), and Bower's Hall (Firemen's Hall). He was married in 1853, to Miss Adelia A. Marsh. Mr. Bower served for many years as town treasurer. He is well remembered by all old citizens of the place as a man of enterprise and tireless energy.

Peter H. Brady.—P. H. Brady was born in New

York, Jan. 3, 1821. He came to Whitewater from Aurora, Ill., in 1841, and engaged as clerk in the store of Philander Peck. In 1848, he was admitted to the firm of Peck & Keep, which, in 1851, was dissolved and the new firm of Brady, Starin & Cook formed. In 1857, he left this firm and entered into the firm of Powers, Allen & Co., in the manufacture of stoves, etc. In 1865, he withdrew and went to Plano, Ill., but returned to Whitewater in the following year, where he died Oct. 10, 1866. He was married April 22, 1852, to Margaret U. Rameau, who bore him two sons, Howard R. and George P. Her death occurred Feb. 9, 1861. He was married again, Oct. 16, 1865, to Harriet A. Wilkinson. One daughter, Anna C., was born of this marriage. Conscientious and upright in all business transactions, genial and courteous in his intercourse with all, he was universally liked and was one of the most popular merchants who ever did business in Whitewater.

Luther Cadman.—Was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., Jan. 18, 1810. Came to Whitewater in 1843 and actively engaged in his trade of carpenter and builder, building a large proportion of the early structures. He built the American House (on the site now known as Dunstone's), and kept it for over twenty-two years, beginning in 1853. He was a member of the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry, serving two and one-half years, till the close of the war. He died April 9, 1891.

John M. Clark.—Was born in Pawlett, Vt., March 3, 1803. Was brought up on a farm. Married to Julia A. Beckwith, in 1837. Came to Whitewater in 1835 and purchased a fine farm of 800 acres, west of the village. Returning to Vermont, he brought his family to the new home in the following year, 1846. The next year, he bought a flock of 270 Merino sheep and thus laid the foundation for that branch of farming, which received so much attention here in later years. Mr. Clark had three children, Henry B., Charles M., now living in Whitewater, and Frances, who was first married to Leander Birge, and after his death to Judge C. R. Gibbs. Mr. Clark remained on his original homestead until his death, May 18, 1864. He was an enterprising, thrifty, upright citizen, always right on ques-

tions of public interest, liberal in encouraging the support of schools and churches, and a zealous member of the Congregational church.

Charles M. Clark.—Was born in Pawlett, Vt., Nov. 25, 1833. He came to Whitewater with his father, John M. Clark, in 1846, and remained on the paternal acres until 1903, when he moved into town. He was married Nov. 4, 1859, to Ellen Bassett of Plainfield, Mass., who bore him one son, Henry L. Mrs. Clark died Dec. 30, 1864. Mr. Clark was again married Feb. 22, 1866, to Miss Ellen Holbrook, of Orwell, Vt. Two daughters were born to them, Jennie and Julia. As a farmer, he gave much attention to the breeding of thorough-bred stock, first Merino sheep, then Short-horn cattle, and fine horses. He is now enjoying a well-earned leisure in the little city which he has seen grow from a rustic hamlet to its present state.

Dr. Joseph A. Clarke.—Was born in Stowe, Vt., Sept. 23, 1814. When he was seventeen years of age, his father removed to Townsend, Ohio. After studying medicine for three years with Dr. Lathrop, of Belleview, O., Dr. Clark came to Whitewater, on horseback, in 1839, returning to Belleview the same year. In July, 1840, he was married to Mary Jane Stedman, who had come to Belleview from Cortland, N. Y., with her family in 1837. After marriage, they took steamer from Sandusky to Milwaukee, coming thence in a lumber wagon to the house of Azor Kinney in the Cravath neighborhood. There they remained while their house was being built, on the site now occupied by the Hotel Walworth, a home in which Mrs. Clarke lived for fifty years. In 1845, on the coming of Dr. Willard Rice, they formed a partnership which continued until the death of Dr. Clarke, in 1873. He was "the beloved physician" of many pioneer families. His wife, still living, is the oldest resident of Whitewater, having lived here continuously for sixty-six years.

Hanford A. Conger.—Was born in Attica, N. Y., September 23, 1821. Was married in May, 1843, to Lurancy Demary, and came to Whitewater shortly afterwards. During his first winter here, he taught school, using an unfinished dwelling house, which he

had helped to construct, on the lot where Dr. C. I. Miller's house now stands. He afterwards taught in Palmyra, and then lived on a farm to the north of that village. He was called East for a few years to aid in the care of relatives, but returned to Whitewater in 1854. He engaged extensively in the nursery business, occupying, at first, the tract bounded by Main, South Prince, Highland, and Whiton streets. Later, his plantings covered the greater part of a farm just out of the city on the Elkhorn road. He was always an intelligent, outspoken, and public-spirited citizen. His last years were saddened by the death of his only children; his son, Eugene, and daughter, Mrs. Juliette Wingate. He died July 3, 1893.

Daniel Seymour Cook.—Was born in Homer, Cortland County, N. Y., in 1827. At the age of fifteen, he began his life work behind the counter and kept at it forty-five years. In 1844, he went to Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., remaining till 1849, coming to Whitewater in the fall of '49. Was in the employ of Peck, Keep & Co., till the spring of 1851, at which time, he with P. H. Brady and J. J. Starin bought out Peck, Keep & Co., and began business under the name of Brady, Starin & Cook. In July, 1853, he was married to Rachel O. Shepard, of Augusta, N. Y. To them were born two children, Cornelia E. and Seymour S. Cornelia, best known as "Nena," was married to Prof. Geo. S. Hendrickson, in 1890, and died in Madison, Wis., in 1895. Seymour S. is now a resident of Minneapolis. In 1856, his brother, Lewis Cook, came from Horicon and bought an interest in the firm. In 1857, Mr. Brady sold his interest; and in 1858, the Cooks sold their interest to Mr. Starin. In the spring of 1860, he formed a partnership with H. B. Shedd, and rented the store of Jas. Worm. In 1863, he bought Mr. Shedd's interest. From the spring of 1860 to the fall of 1887, he occupied the same store, and during the time had business relations with nearly every one living within ten miles of Whitewater. Mr. Cook built his present residence on Main street, in 1856. He has been clerk of the Congregational Society since 1853. No man who has lived in Whitewater for more than half century

carries his years so well, and no man has more warm friends in all the country side than "Seymour" Cook. The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Cook in support of the City Library, and every other good cause, merit the good will which they enjoy.

Miles G. Cravath.—Miles Goodyear Cravath was born in Cortland, N. Y., April 5, 1822, of good Connecticut stock, being the fourteenth child of Prosper Cravath and Miriam Kinney. In the spring of 1840, Mr. Cravath, wishing to find more room for his large family, followed his oldest son, Prosper Cravath, Jr., to Wisconsin. The majority of his sons-in-law came with him, and formed the settlement in the town of Lima, southwest of Whitewater, long known as "the Cravath neighborhood." It was in the commodious log house of Deacon Cravath that what is now the Congregational church of Whitewater, was first organized, in July, 1840.

Deacon Cravath died in 1841, but Miles remained with his mother on the homestead. In 1848, he married Hannah May of Ashtabula County, Ohio, and brought her to the Lima home, in which they lived for fifty years. Here a son, Clinton D., and four daughters were born to them. It is a striking fact that the family has remained unbroken until this time, there having been no marriage and, till now, no death to break the home circle. About five years ago, Mr. Cravath and family left the old farm on which he had first turned the virgin sod, and moved to Whitewater, thinking to enjoy a few years of well-earned leisure, though he could never get out of the habit of work and found plenty of it to do in his new place of residence on the western edge of town. It was only during the past few months that his health showed marked signs of failing.

Living to the ripe age of 83, Mr. Cravath was the last survivor of a family of sixteen children. He had seen all his relatives and neighbors of the same generation pass from the scene of their labors. Yet he never seemed an old man and never got out of joint with the times in which he lived. His spirit was always youthful, genial, and hopeful. He enjoyed life, loved his

MILES G. CRAVATH

friends, and served his country as a faithful citizen. His cheery, contagious laugh will never be forgotten by any who knew him. His thoughtfulness for others, his modest integrity, and his freedom from any sort of crankiness made him a model neighbor and a well-beloved friend. No man will be more deeply missed by his circle of acquaintances.

Prosper Cravath, Esq.—An extended sketch of Mr. Cravath will be found on page 169.

Orville A. Cravath.—Orville Augustus Cravath, youngest son of Deacon Prosper Cravath, was born in Cortland, N. Y., Oct. 1, 1823. In 1840, he came with his father's family to Wisconsin, making the entire journey with horses and wagons. In 1847, he was married to Almeda Sweetman. To them two sons were born, Melvin A., now living in Pasadena, Cal., and Austin, deceased. He continued to live on his fine farm in Lima, until 1893, when, after one or two winters spent in California, he came to Whitewater to reside through his remaining years. He died Nov. 4, 1890. He was a man of moderate, even temper, scrupulously honest, a man of excellent judgment, and of an original, independent mind, a man who prospered by sound methods and got results without haste or worry.

Mrs. Maria Cravath.—Maria Prudence Noble was born in Blandford, Mass., Aug. 20, 1813. She was married, March 27, 1834, to Prosper Cravath, Jr., in Cortland, N. Y. In the following year, they removed to Lyme Ridge, Ohio, remaining there till 1839, when they came to the vicinity of Whitewater.

Mrs. Cravath was one of the original members of the Congregational church here, and during her long residence in Whitewater proved herself indeed "a mother in Israel." She was a friend to young and old, and especially a helper and counselor to the poor. For many years, she was a sort of general almoner of the charities of the town. The last years of her life were clouded by the loss of memory and other results of a slow process of cerebral degeneration; but her memory will remain bright in the minds of everyone who knew her. She entered into rest, Feb. 11, 1890.

Pitt Cravath.—Was born in Lima, Wis., Aug. 1, 1844. Moved to Whitewater, with his parents, in 1845. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1863, and from the Albany (N. Y.) Law School in 1865. He began the practice of law in Whitewater in connection with N. S. Murphey, Esq. In 1868, he went to New Orleans, where he became Assistant Secretary of State of Louisiana, holding that office two years. Returning to Wisconsin, he spent a year or more in the office of Carpenter & Murphey, in Milwaukee. He then went to Algona, Iowa, where he practiced law and ran a newspaper, the Upper Des Moines. Remaining there five years, he returned to Whitewater in 1879, starting a paper which he, at first, called The Puddingstick, but afterwards changed the name to the Whitewater Chronicle. He also formed a law partnership with Samuel Bishop, Esq. He was married in Waukesha, Wis., Oct. 20, 1867, to Miss Marcia Dowd, a niece of Marvin H. Bovee. His later years were largely devoted to the care of his aged mother, who became a helpless charge and received his constant and tender care. After the death of his beloved wife in 1898, he brooded over her loss. His professional career had been broken into by devoted service to his family, and life seemed to him not worth living under the changed conditions. And so, by the use of charcoal fumes, he sought escape from sorrow and disappointment in the night of November 28, 1898. A young man of brilliant promise, genial and beloved by all who knew him, tender and loyal to kindred, his tragic end was a source of grief to a wide circle of friends.

Dr. John Deichman.—One of the unique and interesting characters of early Whitewater was Dr. Deichman, the apothecary. He was born Dec. 12, 1806, in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, though most people doubtless supposed him to be a German by birth. He received a thorough medical education at the University of Pennsylvania, and practiced medicine in his native county until 1849, when he moved to Whitewater and established a drug store, which he ran until age and failing health compelled him to retire from the business. He gave much time and money to the mak-

ing of a collection of curiosities which gradually came to occupy much of the space in his store and most of his time and interest. He was a man of strong convictions, upright, intelligent, and eccentric. He died Dec. 2, 1879.

George Dann.—Was born in Stamford, Conn., March 28, 1807, and spent all his early life on his father's farm. He was the oldest of a family of fourteen children. He was married to Lucretia Jane Clason, March 27, 1827, one day before his 20th birthday. He had to buy the remaining time before he was twenty-one from his father. After two or three years, the young couple moved to Troy, N. Y., where they remained about nine years, and then removed to Oneida Co., N. Y. In June, 1845, Mr. Dann came to Whitewater and engaged in the barrel manufacture and brick-making. Later, with his son Sylvester, he manufactured barrels and barrel stock in Fort Atkinson, until timber became scarce in Bark woods, when the mill was moved to Wonewoc, Wis. He retired from active business a few years before his death, which occurred, Dec. 2, 1880. He was one of the strong, rugged pioneers of Whitewater, a man of remarkable vigor and energy. He was industrious and frugal, a generous friend, a kind neighbor, a lenient creditor, and an honest, public-spirited citizen.

William DeWolf.—Was born in Oneida County, N. Y., July 21, 1821. At the age of twenty-one, he migrated to Wisconsin, arriving in Milwaukee with 75 cents in his possession. The next day, he went to Heart Prairie, May 15, 1842. He there bought 250 acres of land for $1,000, all on credit. By working out, he earned money to improve his farm and pay off his indebtedness. He was married in November, 1845, in the town of Richmond, to Miss Eunice L. Hawes, daughter of Squire Hawes. In 1852, he moved into Whitewater, and entered into partnership with L. A. Winchester in the manufacture of plows and in hardware merchandizing. In 1865, they dissolved partnership, DeWolf taking the hardware business. In 1877, he took up the manufacture of wire cloth, which, with his sons, he carried on for several years. He is still

living, in reduced health, in the family of his son-in-law, H. H. McGraw.

George Esterly.—Was born in Ulster County, N. Y., Oct. 17, 1809. He was brought up on a farm. In 1837, he came to Wisconsin and settled on Heart Prairie, where he purchased 1,120 acres of land. As early as 1843, he had 300 acres under wheat. The difficulty and expense of harvesting by hand led his mind towards the problem of harvesting by machinery. His inventive mind undertook the solution of the problem, to which, eventually, he gave the best of his years and strength. The extensive establishment known as the Esterly Harvester Works, marked the success of his efforts.

But Mr. Esterly was not simply a mechanical inventor. A man of irrepressible mental activity and great physical energy, there was scarcely a subject which he had not studied and upon which he had not radical opinions. His strong originality was evinced in everything which he took up, whether of business or intellectual labor. His energy was indomitable. No reverses, and he had his share of them, were sufficient to damp his courage; no problem was so great or intricate as to deter him from attempting its solution. He was especially interested in the financial questions of the nation, and he wrote several pamphlets on the Currency question which commanded attention and evinced a clear mental grasp of the subject. All in all, he was one of the most forceful and remarkable men, of the many strong ones, who have made Whitewater their home in times past.

Mr. Esterly was three times married. His first wife, Jane Lewis, bore him eight children, five of whom are living, viz.: George W. of Washington, D. C., who was long associated with his father in the manufacturing business; Mrs. Crites and Mrs. Chamberlin, of San Jose, Cal.; Mrs. J. H. Page of Whitewater, and Mrs. Nichols of Charlevoix, Mich.

He died at Hot Springs, S. Dak., in his 84th year.

George T. Ferris.—George Ferris is one of the pioneer boys of Whitewater who are still residents with a good prospect of continuance, one of those who have

seen the pristime wilderness gradually transformed into the beautiful city of to-day. He was born in Yates County, N. Y. He came to Wisconsin in 1841, with his father and family. They resided in various homes during the first few years. In 1845, they purchased the farm now owned by Mr. Ferris, just south of Hillside Cemetery. George was clerk for Curtice & Caswell while but a boy. Later, he was with F. B. Hall for a few years, and then with Cushing, Sweetland & Stewart. In 1887, he with Daniel Alvord bought the stock of goods of D. S. Cook and took over his business, which they continued until 1901. Mr. Ferris was married in 1870 to Susan McIntyre, daughter of Capt. John McIntyre. With the exception of Mrs. Dr. Clarke, Mr. Ferris has had the longest continuous residence in Whitewater of any citizen.

Deacon George Gleason.—George Gleason was never a resident in Whitewater, but he was so intimately connected with its life and interests, that he deserves mention here. He was born near Hartford, Conn., Nov. 11, 1810. At the age of nine, he moved with his parents to Cortland, N. Y. Jan. 13, 1833, he was joined in wedlock to Laura Cleveland, who survived her marriage but two years, leaving a motherless babe, who is now Mrs. Mary Jane Kinney, of this place. On June 9, 1839, he was again married, to Lovina Cravath, daughter of Deacon Prosper Cravath. By this marriage, he acquired not only a devoted wife but also a large circle of new relatives, Cravaths, Kinneys, and Salisburys. In the spring of 1842, he followed these new connections to the Cortland County Colony in faraway Wisconsin, settling on the Lima farm which was his home until his death, and where his son, Norman M., still resides.

Mr. Gleason was a quiet, unassuming man of warm, sympathetic nature, quick to feel but slow to speak, especially where speech could work aught of harm to the feelings of others. He was always the kindest and most helpful of neighbors, ready to do good and lend. The respect and confidence of his neighbors kept him for many years, in his modest way, in public service and neighborhood responsibility. He was for thirty

DEACON GEORGE GLEASON

years assessor of the town of Lima. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1876.

He had a deeply religious nature. He could not talk religion, but he lived it. He, with his wife, united with the Congregational church in 1842, and from that time was one of its most devoted members, becoming a deacon, the height of his ambition, in 1872. He departed this life May 13, 1892, in the 82d year of as worthy a life as man can lead.

David Hamilton.—Was born in Tompkins County, N. Y., July 18, 1802. He was a carpenter by occupation, and a teacher in the public schools for several years. He was married March 9, 1827, in Lansing, N. Y., to Belina Brown, who bore him nine children, of whom the two eldest, Mrs. J. J. Starin and Mrs. Roxana Hamilton, are now living in Whitewater. The eldest son, N. Augustus, now a lawyer and prominent citizen of St. Joseph, Mich., was for many years a prominent school teacher in and about Whitewater, and a master of his art. It was a teaching family, several of the sisters having attained high repute in that calling.

The shooting of William H. Hamilton at a charivari party, was one of the few memorable tragedies in the early history of this region.

Mr. Hamilton came to Wisconsin in 1842. He located on a farm to the south of the village in the district which early acquired the name of "the Island," but worked much of the time at his trade.

He was a man of simple and devout religious faith: he knew that he should see his Lord, face to face. He knew the Bible almost by heart. When to be an Abolitionist was almost to be an outlaw, he was one of the first three in this town to vote the Abolitionist ticket.

Deacon Francis Kinney.—Was born at Homer, N. Y., April 5, 1823. He came to Whitewater early in 1846. His brother, Rev. Martin P. Kinney, was one of the early pastors of the Congregational church, for a period of nine years. Francis was a deacon in the same church for seventeen years. In 1863, he enlisted in the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Regiment. Sickness contracted in the service rendered him an invalid for nearly all the remainder of his life. A pension was granted him, but

he voluntarily surrendered it at a time when his health seemed sufficiently restored to enable him to live without aid. On the subsequent failure of his health, the pension was restored with back pay. By occupation, he was a carpenter. He died in 1887, leaving a wife, two sons, and a daughter, Mrs. Eva Kinney Miller. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, of earnest convictions, and great faithfulness to duty, but ill-health greatly hampered him in the later years and cheated him out of the career to which his abilities and character would have entitled him.

Giles Kinney.—Was born Feb. 9, 1808, in Cortland, N. Y. He was married, Jan. 1, 1833, to Miss Delilah Armstrong. He came to Whitewater in 1839, and brought on his family in 1840. His son, Norman A., then two years old, is a well-known citizen of Whitewater to-day. A daughter, Annette, is now Mrs. Caldwell of Mason City, Iowa. They also adopted Rosetta, the infant daughter of Azor Kinney, now Mrs. Geo. Caward of Owatonna, Minn. Mr. Kinney first settled on a farm about two miles west of town on Walworth avenue. Later, he moved to the farm now owned by Clarence Steele on the Cold Spring road. He moved into town in 1862, taking possession of the old "Badger State" Hotel, which he renovated and named the Cortland House. Here he kept hotel until his death, Oct. 17, 1863. He was a man of genial nature and active disposition, and was highly esteemed as a neighbor and citizen.

Robert McBeath.—Was born in Paisley, Scotland, March 15, 1828. He served an apprenticeship to the tailor's trade in his native town, and came, in 1847, to America. In April, 1850, he came to Whitewater and went into business in partnership with Patrick McLaughlin. In 1854, they built the first three-story brick building in Whitewater. He was married in Cambridge, Wis., Nov. 13, 1856, to Mrs. E. A. Bell, daughter of Alexander Stewart, an officer in the British army. His partner, Mr. McLaughlin, dying in 1858, Mr. McBeath continued the business, as the leading merchant tailor of the place, for many years. He is an intelligent, well-read man, and a respected citizen.

Sanger Marsh.—Was born in Alexander, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1815, and was brought up on a farm. After reaching his majority, he turned to mercantile pursuits, doing business in Nunda and Attica, N. Y. In 1845, he came to Whitewater in company with John S. Partridge, a near friend, and they opened a general store, in which enterprise he continued for the next ten years. In 1863, Mr. Marsh and C. M. Blackman organized the First National Bank of Whitewater which has continued as one of the stable institutions of the place until the present day.

Mr. Marsh was twice married, first to Harriet M. Horton of Nunda, N. Y., in January, 1841, who died Jan. 22, 1843, leaving an infant son, George S. Marsh. In January, 1851, he married Miss Chelsea Pratt, by whom he had three daughters. His life was brought to a close by an unfortunate accident, Oct. 29, 1872.

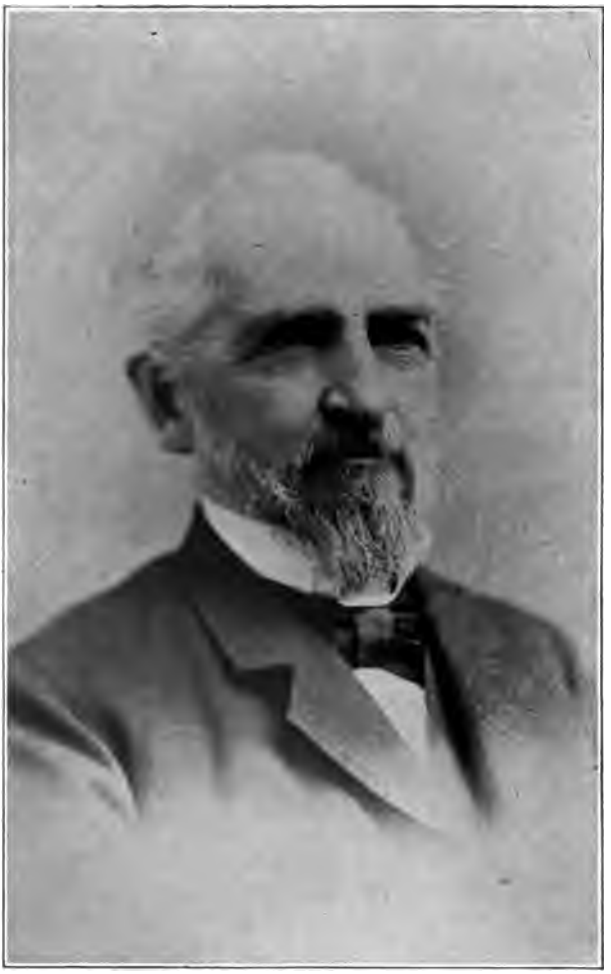
Zerah Mead.—Zerah Mead, one of the most prominent and most respected of the early citizens of Whitewater, was born in Rutland, Vt., June 4, 1800. He spent his boyhood days on a farm. Removing to Wadington, N. Y., in 1825, he built a woolen factory, which he operated until 1832. He was married Oct. 6, 1835, to Miss Fama Mott. He came to Whitewater in 1837 and built a house on the farm where he afterwards resided, on the La Grange road. He was made the first Justice of the Peace in this part of Walworth County, and was afterwards known as "Squire" Mead. His only son, James M. Mead, a lieutenant in Co. D. of the Twenty-eighth Regiment, died at Helena, Ark., Feb. 13, 1863, and was deeply mourned by the whole community. Squire Mead died of pneumonia March 23, 1875.

Richard O'Connor.—Was born in New York city, March 17, 1816. While a young man, he gained a business education as salesman in a dry goods house. He came to Wisconsin in 1846, and selected Whitewater as his future home. Returning to New York soon after, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Morgan. Returning to Whitewater, he engaged in business as a druggist and bookseller, a business now continued by his sons Fred and Harry J. He built up a prosperous business

and firmly established himself in the confidence of the community. He was assessor of the town for more than a score of years. He was prominently identified with the establishment and beautification of the cemeteries of Whitewater, and did much, at an early day, to inaugurate the making of sidewalks and the planting of trees, that habit, the adoption of which did so much to create the present beauty of our city. Death came to him Dec. 27, 1881.

John S. Partridge.—Was a native of Covington, Genesee County, N. Y., born June 28, 1819. His parents were descended from old New England families. As a young man, he was employed for several years as a merchant's clerk in Nunda and Attica, N. Y. In the fall of 1846, he migrated to Whitewater with Sanger Marsh, where they engaged in mercantile business. When the railroad arrived, they erected what was long known as "the Big Warehouse," and bought grain and produce extensively. In 1857, he closed out these lines and purchased an interest in the manufacturing business of Winchester & DeWolf, which became, later, the Winchester & Partridge Manufacturing Company. With this he was actively connected up to the close of its operations in 1892. When the Citizen's National Bank was organized in 1883, he was chosen president, continuing that relation until 1891. Few men have held so warm a place in the hearts of this community as Mr. Partridge. An active and trustworthy business man, a kind neighbor, and a good conversationalist, he mellowed with age, and grew only the more genial and companionable as the years crowned his head with gray. He had a cordial interest in people; no man could ever feel his warm hand-clasp and look into his sincere, kindly eyes without feeling that he was a man worth knowing. To his public spirit, generosity, and love for humanity, Whitewater owes much. An apoplectic attack suddenly removed him from the friends he loved, July 3, 1892.

Mrs. Henrietta M. Partridge.—Mrs. Partridge was the daughter of Hon. Uriah Johnson of LeRoy, N. Y. She was born in March, 1823, and in her early life received the best advantages of education and culture



JOHN S. PARTRIDGE

which the region afforded. In April, 1848, she was married to John S. Partridge and came with him to his new western home. From the first, her mental endowments and active sympathies made her a leading influence in the community. An active, bright-spirited, intellectual woman, she made an impress which could but be lasting in its unconscious effects. But pain and suffering marked her for their own. For nine long years, a mysterious and incurable disease wasted her health and finally ended her earthly existence. Rest came Dec. 13, 1890. Four sons were born to her, of whom only two, Clarence J. of this city, and J. Ashley of St. Louis, are now living.

Jarvis K. Pike.—Was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., Dec. 19, 1781. In 1793, the family moved to Norwich, N. Y., where his father died in 1799, leaving him as the mainstay of a large family at the age of eighteen. When he was twenty years of age, he received a commission as ensign in the New York State Militia, and subsequently held commissions as captain, major, and colonel. He was united in marriage with Rebecca Mead in December, 1800, at the age of nineteen, in which relation they continued for over sixty years. In 1814, he was aide-de-camp to Maj.-Gen. King, and went with the militia to Sackett's Harbor, remaining there till relieved by the army of Gen. Brown. In 1821, he was a delegate to the New York state convention for the revision of the State Constitution. In 1830, he was a member of the New York Legislature, and at various other times held positions of public trust. In 1837, he was made one of the judges of the County Court in Cortland County, from which fact he acquired the title, "Judge Pike," by which he was afterwards designated. In the spring of 1841, he came to Whitewater and built the house now occupied by C. J. Partridge just east of the City Library. Two years later, he purchased a farm north of town, in Cold Spring, which he occupied jointly with his son Alanson, who had married Fidelia Cravath. He was a member of the Wisconsin Legislature from Jefferson County in 1849, and for several years thereafter held the position of local magistrate.

He was a man of strong religious faith, a member of the Baptist church. He died January 16, 1863.

David J. Powers.—Born in Windham County, Vermont, June 3, 1814; he grew up on his father's farm, receiving his education in a district school. He learned the machinist's trade; and, although very proficient and able to command superintending positions with what was then a good salary, he became tired of working for others, and in the fall of 1838, with a young wife and a few hundred dollars, he emigrated to what was then the far West, coming via Erie Canal, and a lake steamer from Buffalo to Milwaukee, where he left his wife and started out on foot to find a suitable location. When partly through the Milwaukee woods, he was overtaken by Mr. Willard B. Johnson on horseback, who told him of the beauties of Whitewater prairie, and offered him the use of a log house on his thousand acre farm until he should be able to fix himself better. Going to the prairie, he found it very lightly settled on the eastern side, by the Pratts, the Birges, and a few others. Returning for his wife, he took possession of the Johnson house and purchased a claim for 320 acres of land nearly opposite.

After the erection of the Trippe Mill, the next move was to survey a village plat, and Prosper Cravath, then living upon the west side of the prairie, was called upon to do this work, Mr. Powers being his "chain man" while thus engaged. As the country was filling up with people, a hotel seemed to be a necessity, and one was erected by Mr. Powers, an acre of ground near the river being given him by Dr. Tripp for this purpose. This hotel was taxed to its utmost capacity on the Fourth of July following, when the people from far and near came in attendance upon the first celebration. Soon tiring of keeping hotel, Mr. Powers sold out and erected and occupied a house which still stands in good condition on the corner of Main and Fourth streets, opposite the Baptist church.

He was appointed postmaster by Martin Van Buren, and went on foot to Troy where he was sworn in. He walked back the same day, carrying with him the first mail that ever came to Whitewater.

The village grew and prospered, but in 1842 he purchased with his brother, Samuel R. Powers, a mill site at what is now the village of Palmyra. They erected a saw mill, and D. J. Powers platted the village. He lived there about ten years; and, being elected to the Legislature, was so well pleased with Madison that he moved to the Capital city in 1853, and remained about fifteen years, during which time he was editor and publisher of the "Wisconsin Farmer," and for several years the Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, taking a very active part in the state fairs of that period. He then went to Chicago and engaged in an extensive manufacturing business, where he still lives in good health, and with keen intellect, at the green old age of ninety-two. A prolific and successful inventor, he has by legitimate manufacturing, accumulated a modest fortune, and has always been known as a large-hearted man who takes more pleasure in giving money to the needy than in spending it foolishly.

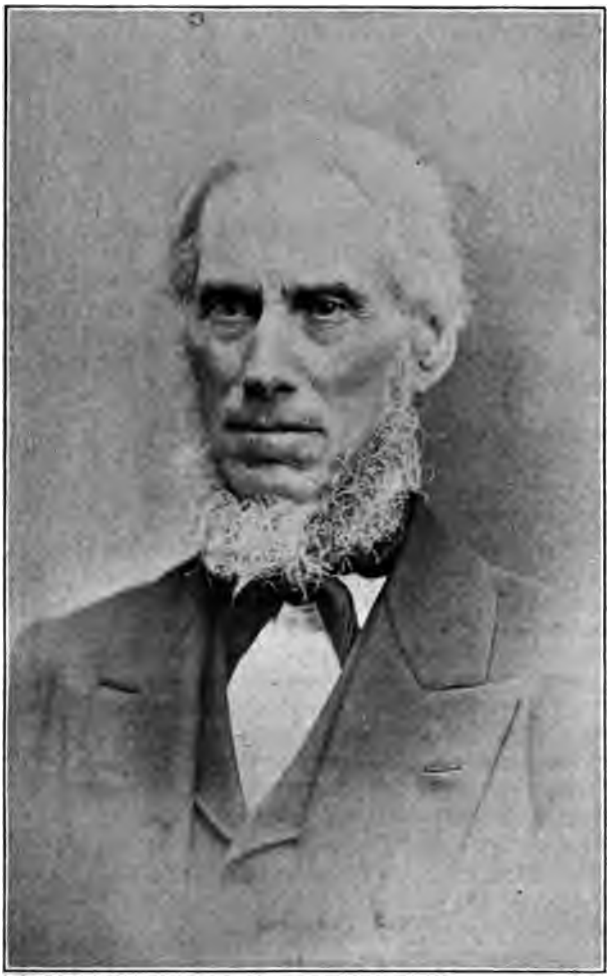
Freeman L. Pratt.—Freeman Pratt was born July 31, 1814, in Madison County, N. Y. He was married, March 24, 1836, to Melinda Mack, who, in later years, became one of the best known and best loved women of this community. Mr. Pratt, with his brother Norman and his wife, née Jane Williams, came to Whitewater in 1837, being the first families to establish residence here. His father, Asaph Pratt, with other sons, came later, building what is now known as "the Red Mill," and inaugurating other early enterprises. For three years, he engaged in farming. In 1840, he purchased the new hotel from David J. Powers. In 1845, he sold the hotel to Warner Earle, and resumed farming in which he continued till 1873. His death occurred Feb. 18, 1880. Two sons, Morganta and William H., are still living. His widow, affectionately known to a large circle of friends as "Aunt Melinda," survived her husband until recent years, dying in July, 1898.

Capt. E. S. Redington.—Edward S. Redington was born in Montreal, Canada, Nov. 1, 1820. His parents were New England people, and his grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. In childhood, his parents moved to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., where

he was brought up a farmer and lumberman. In 1847, he came to Wisconsin and located in Cold Spring. In 1850, he joined a party bound for the gold fields of California, by way of the plains, driving a four-horse team from Whitewater to California. Returning to Wisconsin, he was married in February, 1852, to Mrs. Mary A. Brink, widow of Abram Brink, and daughter of William Greenleaf. To them were born a son, William R., and three daughters, Lilla C., Juliette J., and Sarah B.

In 1853, Mr. Redington moved into Whitewater, and then made a second trip to California with a four-horse team, returning in 1854. In August, 1862, he recruited a company for the war, and became captain of Co. D, 28th Wis. Infantry. He was in the battle of Helena, July 4, 1863, took part in the Yazoo Pass expedition, and was engaged in many other active operations. He returned to Wisconsin in September, 1865, and engaged in farming and the produce business. He was a good citizen and a man of wide and active interests, being peculiar in the fact that hardly anything came within his ken which did not arouse his interested attention. He was a genuine lover of nature and had a rich and ever available knowledge of things to be found in the fields, woods, and waters. He died suddenly on Nov. 18, 1888.

Dr. Willard Rice.—Was born in Greensboro, Vt., Dec. 18, 1816. While yet a young man, he moved to Ohio and engaged in the study and practice of medicine. In 1845, he came to Whitewater and entered into partnership with Dr. J. A. Clarke, the partnership continuing until the death of Dr. Clarke in 1873. In those days, to be a physician in this section, where undrained marshes bred the germs of disease, where settlers were scattered far and wide, and only accessible over roads scarcely worthy of the name, was a far different thing from what the profession encounters at these times. And full well, so far as the medical science of their day would permit, did these pioneer physicians perform their duties as missionaries to the sick and suffering; so well, in fact, that they lost their own health in the effort to restore that



DR. WILLARD RICE

boon to others. Dr. Rice was a physician of the old school, heroic in his methods, but very successful in his practice. He was married, Dec. 17, 1861, to Emma F. Cravath, only daughter of Prosper Cravath, Esq., a woman of unusual brilliancy and strength of mind. They had two children, Aaron, who died at the age of seventeen, and Maria, now Mrs. Howard Salisbury. After some years of declining health, Dr. Rice passed away, April 16, 1887.

Ansel Salisbury.—Was born in Cortland County, New York, May 15, 1809. Son of Silas Salisbury and Lydia Dodge. In May, 1837, he came to Spring Prairie, Walworth County. He was married at Northport, Mich., in 1843, to Olive Dame. They had seven children, Egbert and Edgar, twins, W. Scott, Stella (now Mrs. C. J. Partridge), Effie (now Mrs, Mannering DeWolf), Willard, and Jessie.

In 1846, Mr. Salisbury moved to Lima, where he engaged in farming until 1854, when he moved to Whitewater. In 1858, he purchased the Branch Mill property, which he owned for seven years. He died Nov. 24, 1884. He was a man of good judgment and had labored hard in his earlier years, thus securing a competence. His sense of honor and justice was simple but very keen. He was never known to take advantage of ignorance nor claim a legal right at the expense of honor. A single example out of many may illustrate this. Having mistakenly set the figures on some property at $1,000.00 less than it was worth, he went to the purchaser, before any papers were drawn or any legal obligation on his part had arisen, and offered him $1,000.00 for a cancellation of the verbal agreement. The purchaser not being inclined to forego his purchase, even on such terms, Mr. Salisbury deeded the property to him at the original figures. Integrity and he were one.

Nelson Salisbury.—A brother of Ansel Salisbury. Born in Marathon, N. Y., Dec. 31, 1812. In 1828, he and his brother Ansel worked on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, he as steersman and Ansel as driver. At the age of sixteen, he came to Cortland, N. Y., and resided in the family

ANSEL SALISBURY

of Deacon Prosper Cravath, along with his brothers Oliver and Ansel. For five years, he worked as a farm laborer and saved up six hundred dollars. In 1834, he commenced peddling dry goods and notions with a horse and wagon. In 1839, or thereabouts he, with his brother Oliver, made a trip to Wisconsin Territory, selling goods from a pedlar's wagon. One incident of this venture was the acquisition of a considerable amount of the bills of the famous, or infamous, Mineral Point Bank, one of the first and worst of the "wild cats." In 1841, he purchased a farm in the "Cravath neighborhood," and was married to Esther Cravath, Feb. 24, 1842. She died April 16, 1845, leaving him an infant daughter, Helen, afterwards wife of Prof. L. L. Clarke. In 1856, he sold his farm and moved into Whitewater, engaging in the lumber business for a time. Later, he became interested in banking. He was married again in January, 1880, to Mrs. Julia Hemenway. At different times, they built several commodious brick residences on Main street. He died after a lingering illness, Sept. 14, 1880.

Mr. Salisbury was a man of superior intelligence and sterling integrity. He was an interesting conversationalist and of a cheerful, neighborly disposition, full of interest in all public matters, just and honorable in all his relations. He was successful in every undertaking, but especially excelled all his neighbors as a farmer and gardener. No other man could raise so big a crop of wheat from the same seed; no one else could equal him in making a tree grow as he wished it.

George Salisbury.—Of the three Salisbury brothers who became residents of Whitewater, George was the youngest. He was born in Marathon, N. Y., April 10, 1819, and moved, with his family, to Spring Prairie, Wis., in 1840. The following year, he removed to Lima, when he engaged in farming, living, for a time, in the household of Deacon Prosper Cravath. In 1849, he married Philena Kinney, daughter of Levi Kinney and Adah Cravath Kinney. In 1854, he moved to Whitewater, purchasing a small farm just out of town on the Janesville road, where he resided until his death, on April 7, 1889. Of

a family of twelve brothers and sisters, he was the last survivor except one sister, Mrs. Lydia Joslin. His only child was Howard S. Salisbury, well known to this community, and whose untimely death still saddens the memory of so many warm friends.

If any man has lived without making an enemy, it may have been George Salisbury. His genial, warm-hearted, neighborly nature kept him from all intolerance or unfairness, though he was a man interested in all public affairs and unhesitating in pronouncing his opinion. Professing no particular creed, his life was a practical illustration of Christian virtues.

Albert Salisbury.—Was born in Lima, Wis., Jan. 24, 1843, being the first white child born in the town of Lima. He was the oldest of six children born to Oliver Salisbury and Emily Cravath, who both came to Wisconsin before they were married, which event occurred April 27, 1841. His father was one of the seven Salisbury brothers who spent more or less of their lives in the nighborhood of Whitewater. He built the first frame house between Whitewater and Milton, and to this took his bride, one of the nine grown-up daughters of Deacon Prosper Cravath.

Albert grew up on the Lima farm, experiencing all the responsibilities of the oldest child in a pioneer family. About 1855, his father added the nursery business to farming, and to this the boy served an apprenticeship of twelve years. He entered the Union Army as a recruit in the 13th Wis. Infantry in December, 1863, serving in the Army of the Cumberland. After the war was ended, his Army corps, the 4th, was sent to Texas under Gen. Sheridan, to enforce the Monroe Doctrine. During this summer (1865), he was detailed by Major General Stanley as Military Postmaster of the Dept. of Texas, with headquarters at New Orleans.

He was married Nov. 20, 1866, to Abba A. Maxson, daughter of Dr. John Maxson. By her, he had four children, Gertrude L., Oliver M., Grace E., and Winifred A. His father dying in November, 1866, he spent the next two years in managing two farms and closing out the nursery business. His education, begun in "the

white school house," where his first teaching was also done, and prosecuted intermittently at Milton College, was resumed in 1868, and he graduated in 1870. He next became principal of the Brodhead High School. In March, 1873, he was called to the newly established position of Conductor of Institutes for the Whitewater Normal School, which he held until July, 1882, when he resigned to become superintendent of schools for the American Missionary Association, in the South and West, with residence at Atlanta, Ga. For the next three years, he traveled 30,000 miles a year in the inspection of schools, doing the travel chiefly nights and Saturdays. During the third of these years, his family resided in Montclair, New Jersey. Being called to the presidency of the Normal School, he returned to Whitewater in July, 1885, to take up the office which he has now held for twenty-one years, in which time the Normal School building has been three times enlarged, the number of graduates, meantime, increasing from 355 to 1,300. His experience in the nursery business had bred a taste for trees and gardening which has found scope in the care and ordering of the school grounds.

His first wife dying in 1881, he was again married Aug. 28, 1883, to Miss Agnes Hosford, who bore him a son, Albert H., who died May 15, 1905, just as he was about to graduate from the Normal School, a sad fate which had also befallen the youngest daughter, Winnie, eight years before.

Henry J. Starin.—Was born in the state of New York in 1807 or 1808. He came to Whitewater in September, 1840, settling on a farm on the north edge of the village, where he spent forty years as a farmer and horticulturist. He gave especial attention to the planting of shade trees and fruit trees. It gave him great satisfaction to inaugurate and carry out landscape improvements, to recover and beautify waste and marshy places, and make them blossom as the rose. The grove of large evergreens adjoining the City Park on the south is one of the remains of his planting. He was a man of marked peculiarities, but held in high esteem by the community. He was found dead in bed on the

morning of May 3, 1880. His son, Henry Allen Starin, long a resident here, was born in November, 1842. Another son, Duane, who lost both legs in the War of the Union, is also well known to the people of this city.

Jacob J. Starin.—Was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., Aug. 16, 1825. He came to Whitewater in September, 1840, with his uncle, Henry J. Starin. In 1844, he engaged as a clerk in the store of Philander Peck. Later, he was one of the partners who succeeded to the business of Peck and Keep, under the name of Brady, Starin & Cook. He was engaged about nineteen years in that business. He was married Oct. 2, 1852, to Miss Frances E. Hamilton. Two sons were born to them, Philander P. and William A. He died Jan. 4, 1899.

Mr. Starin was a kind and accommodating neighbor. In particular, it became a habit with him to be present at all funerals within the range of his wide acquaintance, ready to render any service which the occasion permitted.

Frederic J. Starin.—Was born in Fultonville, N. Y., April 17, 1821. When seven years of age, he lost his father. At the early age of nineteen, he came West and entered upon the occupation of surveying and civil engineering, at Dubuque, Iowa. Later, he taught school at Racine, Wis. In 1843, he returned to New York, and on August 24th of that year was married to Jane M. Groat. For the next ten years, he followed farming, but in 1853 he again came West, settling in Whitewater. Here he resumed his early occupation and in 1870 assumed business relations with the Chicago & Northwestern Ry., taking, in addition to surveying and engineering, the duties of right-of way agent. This connection lasted for twenty-three years, taking him away from home much of his time, notwithstanding which he was recognized as an influential and respected citizen. His revered wife, Mrs. Jane M. Starin, still lives in the beautiful old homestead with two daughters, Mrs. Birge and Mrs. Stump, blessing all who meet her by her sweet and joyous spirit. Mr. Starin died Oct. 2, 1896, after a long illness attended by great suffering.

Dr. James Trippe.—Was born in Schenectady, N. Y., Sept. 5, 1795. He received his medical education in the

College of Physicians and Surgeons at Albany, from which he graduated about 1817. He engaged in practice in Mobile, Ala., but returned in 1819 to New York. He was commissioned surgeon of the 60th N. Y. V. I., June 11, 1822. Jan. 4, 1825, he was married to Rosepha Ann Comstock. He continued the practice of medicine till 1835, when he decided to turn farmer. In 1837, he migrated to Wisconsin and located in Troy, where he built a saw-mill. In 1839, as related in the earlier pages of this book, he moved to Whitewater and became the proprietor of the town site, building a grist-mill in 1840 and a saw-mill later on. After coming to Wisconsin, he only practiced medicine when called as counsel in critical cases. A heartfelt tribute to the worth of Dr. Trippe as a man and citizen may be found on page 70 of the reminiscences of Prosper Cravath. He died, lamented by all, Sept. 4, 1844.

Mrs. Rosepha A. Trippe.—Rosepha Ann Comstock was born in Laurens, Otsego County, N. Y., Nov. 2, 1802, and was married to Dr. Trippe in 1825. The young couple moved first to Montgomery County, N. Y., but finally saw their star in the West. They accordingly moved to East Troy in 1837, Mrs. Trippe bringing with her a comfortable little fortune. In 1839, they transferred their home to Whitewater, as already related. They had two sons, Daniel C. and William J. Mrs. Trippe was a woman of strong will and quite remarkable business capacity. She assisted her husband in many ways in establishing the village of Whitewater, and when he died, she continued the work he had left undone. As one of the pioneer women of Whitewater, she will be long remembered by all who knew her as neighbor and friend. She was a leader in schemes of benevolence and reform. All her life, she was a staunch member and supporter of the Episcopal Church; and when she died, Feb. 2, 1881, her zeal in its cause was recognized by Bishop Welles, who conducted the funeral services. She was, all in all, a woman of mark, strong, self-reliant, hospitable, fond of society, and fond of doing good. Only the oldest settlers can realize her value to early Whitewater.

Solmous Wakeley.—Was born in New Milford, Conn., March 17, 1794. His youth was spent in cultivating an unkindly soil, picking up a few scraps of education, and learning the shoemaker's trade. In 1818, he married Hannah Thompson, a woman of uncommon purity and stability of character. He migrated to New York, where he resided till 1836. He then removed to Lorain County, Ohio, where he remained seven years, coming to Whitewater in the spring of 1843. He became a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1846, where he made up in common sense what he lacked in schooling. In 1855 and 1857, he also represented Whitewater in the State Assembly. Mr. Wakeley is remembered by those who know him as a man of acute mind, with a remarkable ability in debate. Though his school training was limited, his native penetration and reflective mind made him a broad-minded citizen, firmly grounded in his beliefs and able to maintain them. He died of pneumonia Jan. 12, 1867, leaving a wife, two daughters, and three sons. One of these, Eleazer Wakeley, Esq., was one of the early lawyers of the place, a very prominent and highly honored citizen, who attained great prominence in his profession, becoming eventually a Federal Judge in Nebraska.

Isaac U. Wheeler, Esq.—"Old 'Squire Wheeler," as he came to be familiarly called, was a notable character in early Whitewater. He was born at Oyster Bay, Long Island, in 1787. His father was a Baptist minister. When I. U. was eleven years of age, he went to Dutchess County, N. Y., where he learned the carpenter's trade. He was married in 1817 to Miss Lavina Duncan, who bore him six children. Sarah, the oldest, was the wife of Jesse R. Kinne of Sugar Creek; Mary A. became the wife of Gaylord Graves; Harriet was the first wife of Daniel Salisbury of Spring Prairie; Betsey A. was the first wife of S. B. Edwards. Two sons, Egbert and William H., were well-known citizens of Whitewater in the early days.

Before leaving New York, Mr. Wheeler held many positions of public trust. In 1812, he was captain of a volunteer rifle company. Later, he was constable and deputy sheriff, and then justice of the peace. He came to

Whitewater in 1840, and in the following year was appointed justice of the peace by Gov. Doty. He held this office continuously until his death except during four years that he was postmaster, under Taylor and Fillmore. He was a man of clear judgment, and his long experience had made him familiar with points of law; so that his judgments were rarely appealed from. He discharged the duties of this office up to within a few days of his death in his 84th year.

His first wife, mother of his children, died in Sherburne, N. Y., in 1835. He was married again Jan. 26, 1837, to Miss Nancy Palmer. He died Feb. 9, 1870. His grandson, I. U. Wheeler (2d), has been connected with the banking business in Whitewater for many years past.

Asad Williams.—One of the men who loomed large among the early settlers about Whitewater as a man and neighbor, was Capt. Asad Williams. He was born in Stonington, Conn., Sept. 26, 1781, and was, therefore, one of the oldest of the early comers. He was married in Massachusetts, Oct. 13, 1808, to Miss Jennie McGee. About 1814, they moved to Herkimer County, N. Y. They had eight children, six of whom lived to mature years. He arrived in Whitewater June 11, 1839, and located on a farm just beyond the village on the Fort Atkinson road, where he lived until his death, May 16, 1864. He had a musical gift which was handed on to several of his sons, the yougest, Thomas W., becoming famous in this part of the state as a band leader. The eldest daughter, Eliza Jane, married Norman Pratt, at the East, in 1833. She was one of the two first women to come to Whitewater and was ever held in high regard up to her death in 1904, being affectionately called "Aunt Jane" by a wide circle of admiring friends. The Williams homestead is one of the few hereabouts still remaining in the family of the original settler, being now held by a grandson, Frank H. Williams.

Mrs. Jenny Williams.—Jenny McGee was born in Colerain, Mass., Sept. 27, 1781. She was therefore one day younger than Asad Williams, whom she was to marry in the course of time. She was of Scotch and

Irish descent. She and her husband lived together for nearly fifty-six years, and then she lived on for sixteen years more, dying Feb. 11, 1880, in her 99th year.

When "Aunt Jenny Williams" died, all Whitewater, all who had ever been sick or unfortunate, felt, if they had been anywhere within the kind soul's reach, that a common mother had passed away. She was one of the original members of the Congregational Church, and on the occasion of its organization in 1840 made a prayer which was long remembered by those present. But church lines were lost from sight when anyone was sick, hungered, or in distress of body or soul and needed to be ministered unto. Intelligent, refined, with positive convictions of right and wrong, it was always a pleasure to hear her converse. Until her eyesight failed so that she could not read, she took a lively interest in all the political and social questions of the day. As old age crept upon her, she gave up the cares of life, and knew no ambition but the good of her loved ones. For many years, she had seen that her children and grandchildren were supplied with stockings from her own hands. When in her 97th year, she knit forty pairs of stockings; and but a few days before she was taken sick she called for more yarn, which, however, she never used, for her busy hands grew weary and she folded them to rest.

Jonathan M. Williams.—Jonathan McGee Williams, son of Asad and Jenny Williams, was born in Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., March 17, 1820. He came to Whitewater with his parents in 1839. He was married Nov. 27, 1854, to Miss Sarah M. Hamilton. They had three sons, Leo A., a lawyer in Fond du Lac, Frank H., and Charles M. He was a man greatly esteemed by all who knew him. Of quiet, friendly disposition, his whole life presented a worthy example of conscientious well-doing in the every day affairs of life.

Nathan D. Williams.—A son of Asad Williams, born in Madison County, N. Y., March 9, 1823. Came to Wisconsin with his parents in June, 1839. Having a natural talent for music, he and his brother, Thomas W., began practicing wind instruments, while making maple sugar on the banks of Bark River. Later, they

were instrumental in organizing the Whitewater Cornet Band, which had high musical repute for many years. He was also a member of the Severance and Williams String Band, which existed for more than thirty years without a break or change in its membership.

He was married in Stockbridge, N. Y., May 2, 1844, to Betsey A. Allen, who bore him five children, George W., Alma, Cassius C., Linn A., and Leona B. Mr. Williams is still living, but in a weakened condition of health, and no longer able to mingle with his fellow-citizens as was his wont.

George G. Williams.—Was born Oct. 15, 1803, at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. He was married at Athens, on the Hudson, Nov. 7, 1824, to Harriet C. Fitch. He came to Whitewater in 1847, and bought the farm lying between Walworth and Janesville streets. Later, he became interested in the pottery business, the plant being located on the west side of Fremont street, north of North street. He was one of the early magistrates of the village, his experience in that office continuing about fifteen years. He was appointed postmaster of Whitewater by President Buchanan in March, 1860, which office he held for seven years. He had two sons, James C. and Robert, and three daughters, one of whom, Miss Ella Williams, still occupies the old homestead on North street. During his active life, " 'Squire Williams" was one of Whitewater's most widely-known and influential citizens. He was an old-time Democrat, but when the South seceded, he took a prompt and public stand among the supporters of the Union. He died, after long continued ill-health, August 8, 1889.

Lucius A. Winchester.—L. A. Winchester was born in Hartford, Vt., Sept. 22, 1821. When seventeen years old, he learned the blacksmith's trade, and in 1843 came to Milwaukee, where he worked at his trade till March, 1844, when he came to Whitewater, and with Joseph Rogers established a general blacksmithing business. In 1850, he arranged with Dan C. Trippe to manufacture plows, but this partnership continued only a short time. In 1853, Wm. DeWolf added his capital to the enterprise, and four years later John S. Part-

ridge bought a third interest. In 1864, the making of wagons was added to the work of the establishment, and became in time the main feature. In 1873, the Winchester & Partridge Manufacturing Co. was organized with Mr. Winchester as president, which position he held until his death. In 1850, he married Miss Lucy A. Wakeley. Two sons were born to them, both of whom died in early manhood. Mrs. Winchester died in February, 1861. In 1865, he was married a second time, to Miss Charlotte Clarke, who bore him two daughters, Sarah (Mrs. C. E. Gray) and Mabel, now deceased.

Mr. Winchester was a stalwart and fine-looking specimen of manhood, even in his later years. He was honorable, outspoken, a sincere friend, and true to every obligation, with good business ability and a natural adaptation to mechanical pursuits. He and his partners built up a splendid establishment to which Whitewater owed, and still owes, much. He died April 9, 1890.

Septer Wintermute.—Was born in Sussex County, New Jersey, May 10, 1810. He was married in January, 1832, to Emeline Bartholf. They moved to Monroe County, N. Y., in 1837, and to Fulton Co., Ill., in 1840. From there to Pekin, Ill., in 1844; and in 1846, they came to Whitewater, where he rented the Exchange Hotel. Two years later, it was sold, and he then removed to Richmond Center, where he farmed and kept public house until 1850. He then returned to Whitewater and bought the Whitewater Hotel, which he enlarged, later, and renamed as the Montour House. In 1865, the hotel burned, and in place of it, he built the brick livery barn which now occupies the site and is conducted by his grandson, Chap. Leffingwell. In 1870, he bought a farm of 400 acres on the Elkhorn road, still known as the Wintermute farm, and on which he bred a fine herd of Holstein cattle.

He had five children, James, Peter, Elizabeth (Mrs. H. C. Leffingwell), Helen (Mrs. Sprague), and Frank. He died June 9, 1885.

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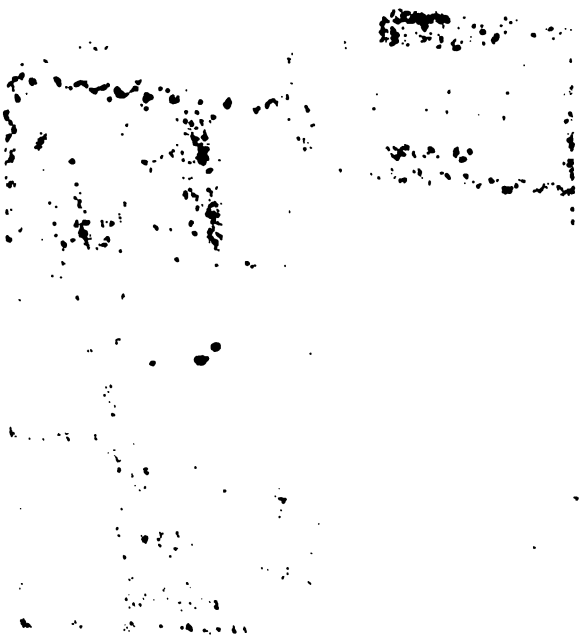

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